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Report Warns of 'Impending Disaster' in Cambodia

HK2411064490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0416 GMT 24 Nov 90

[By Michel Blanchard]

[Text] Paris, Nov 24 (AFP)—As officials from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Indonesia began more talks on Cambodia here Friday, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) warned of impending disaster in the country.

According to a confidential report to the NGOs, the combined effects of a dragging civil war and the end of aid from the Eastern European trade grouping COMECON have created an "economic and financial blockage" that is "slowly suffocating" Cambodia's fragile economy. The report said the "international isolation (of Cambodia) is depriving the best of its leaders and civil servants of the means to confront the problems." The country's "resources for action, and their efficiency, are very limited," it added.

Raoul Jennar, diplomatic adviser to a forum set up by NGOs operating in Cambodia, wrote the report.

Politically, the Vietnam-backed government of Prime Minister Hun Sen was undergoing a "turning-in on itself and a hardening" of its attitudes, said Mr. Jennar, who produced another report on Cambodia in June. He noted in particular the recent arrest of several people for crimes of opinion, restrictions on contact with foreigners, the restarting of political education classes and creation of "control structures" inside the government. "The reformers, because they did not obtain any response to their efforts to transform the regime from the West when it was needed, are now on the sidelines," he added.

Mr. Jennar's report compared the situation of the Cambodian reformers to that of Czechoslovak leader Alexander Dubcek at the time of the 1968 "Prague Spring." The Prague reform movement was brutally crushed when Soviet tanks rolled into the country. Mr. Hun Sen, like Mr. Dubcek in his time, was politically isolated by the lack of external support, Mr. Jennar said. The main beneficiary of that isolation was the more conservative Chea Sim, president of the National Assembly, the report said.

The report, dated November 6, also said the positions of resistance guerrillas had changed considerably with the strongest faction, the Khmer Rouge, now only 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Phnom Penh to the south-west, and 95 kilometres (60 miles) away to the south-east. The activities of forces controlled by former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk were "relatively modest," while right-wing nationalists of the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front had carried out many human rights abuses, Mr. Jennar said. On a more optimistic note, however, the report said the Phnom Penh government remained "extremely sensitive to changes in the international situation."

The latest round of talks is to address the results of talks in Jakarta November 10 among France, Indonesia and a dozen governments involved in the Cambodian peace process. Paris and Jakarta are co-chairs of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which last met in August 1989. A new gathering was envisaged by early next year.

At present, a United Nations plan for a solution to the conflict is held up by disagreements over who should head the Supreme National Council—an interim body to administer the country and embody Cambodian sovereignty until U.N.-supervised elections can be held.

Japan Official Seeks Support on Northern Islands

OW2411044990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Singapore, Nov. 24 KYODO—The vice governor of Japan's Hokkaido Prefecture asked for Singapore's support of efforts to secure the return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, THE STRAITS TIMES reported Saturday.

Vice Governor Takashi Mukaida is heading an 18-member mission to Singapore organized by the non-profit Japanese League for the Return of the Northern Territories. The mission, despatched to mobilize domestic and international support for the return of the northern territories, visited Thailand and Malaysia before coming to Singapore.

Mukaida, who called on the parliamentary secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yatiman Yusoff, on Friday to explain Japan's position on the issue, said it was imperative to resolve the issue so that a peace treaty could be signed with the Soviet Union.

Japan claims that the islands belong to it and has refused to sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union or improve economic relations until the islands are returned.

Mukaida was also reported as saying that he was not optimistic there would be a settlement before or during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April next year.

Japan

Tokyo To Provide Iraq With Medical Supplies

OW2611085190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan will partially unfreeze contracts for the supply of medicine and medical equipment to Iraq, Foreign Ministry officials confirmed Monday. But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, denied that the Japanese Government is considering extending medical assistance to Iraq in the form of grants-in-aid.

Officials said that the government reached the decision earlier in the day after being repeatedly pressed on the matter by the Iraqi side. They said the government will initially approve the unfreezing of some 240 million yen in contracts already concluded between the Iraqi side and Japanese companies, while other contracts will be unfrozen on a "case-by-case basis."

Officials stressed that the export of medical supplies to Iraq for humanitarian purposes is exempt from the United Nations embargo implemented in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

The initial 240 million yen worth of medical supplies includes cardiotonic drugs for heart patients, fluid tubes, spare parts for medical equipment, and hypodermic syringes.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will approve further Iraqi requests after it has been assured that the items concerned will not be diverted for military use.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 661, passed on August 6, bans the sale or supply of all commodities and products to Iraq except for "supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs." A subsequent resolution passed on September 13, states that the exports must be monitored by the government of the country of origin or by humanitarian organizations.

Envoy to Iraq Confirms Presence of Hostages

OW2311060190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 23 KYODO—Japanese ambassador to Iraq Kunio Katakura said Thursday that he had confirmed the presence of Japanese hostages detained at an industrial facility near Basra, some 440 kilometers southeast of Baghdad.

Katakura, speaking to reporters, said he had observed Japanese hostages through windows and barbed wire at the industrial facility during his four-day visit there since last Sunday. The envoy refrained for security reasons from divulging the exact number of Japanese hostages detained at the site, but said they all seemed well.

Katakura's report was the first from a Japanese diplomat detailing fresh news of the condition of the hostages detained outside Baghdad. He also met, in the suburbs of Basra, a group of about 20 Japanese nationals stranded in Iraq since the August 2 Iraqi invasion and later annexation of tiny oil-rich neighbor Kuwait.

In a recent development, 74 Japanese hostages were released during a visit to Iraq by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone early this month, following release of four Japanese hostages for health reasons in mid-October. There are still 239 Japanese detained in Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Katakura said Iraqi authorities rejected his request to meet with the hostages but handed the hostages supplies of Japanese food and books Katakura brought. Some hostages recognized Katakura and waved through windows and barbed wire, he said.

Katakura quoted the facility's authorities as saying that the Japanese hostages have been transferred from the center of the facility to nearby family dormitories for improved treatment after Nakasone's visit. The authorities also told Katakura that the Japanese hostages cook among themselves and jog with American and British hostages also detained at the facility.

Katakura visited Basra and Umm Qasr on the border with Kuwait for four days with special permission from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Kuriyama, Iranian Official on Ties, Gulf Crisis

LD2211093290 Tehran IRNA in English 0538 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22, IRNA—Advisor to the Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani discussed promotion of Tehran-Tokyo ties and Persian Gulf developments in a meeting with Japanese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pakakazu Kuriyama here Wednesday.

During the meeting, Kuriyama stressed the need for confronting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but expressed concern over a military confrontation in the region. He also underscored Japan's stand on a complete and immediate Iraqi troops pullout from Kuwait and said Tokyo preferred a political solution to a military one. He also hailed Iran's stand in supporting the implementation of UN resolutions against Iraq.

Larijani [who is] here to take part in a conference on "Qeshm Free Trade Zone" said Iran too was against the Iraqi aggression. He added that arrangements should be made for the establishment of a collective security in the region to serve the legitimate interests of the nations.

More on U.S. Navy Sending Japanese to Mideast

OW2311141290 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The command of the U.S. naval forces in Japan officially admitted today that the forces have asked nine Japanese employees working at Yokosuka Base in Kanagawa Prefecture to go to Bahrain in the Middle East. This was disclosed by the command of the U.S. naval forces located in Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture, in answers to NHK questions. According to the U.S. Navy, it has asked nine Japanese employees working at the ship repair section of Yokosuka Base to go to the Middle East. The reason for their dispatch to the Middle East is to make a repair estimate for the 18,000-ton USS Blue Ridge, a 7th Fleet flagship, when it docks in Bahrain in preparation for its return to Yokosuka Base. The flagship was sent to the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The command, in its answers, said that the period for dispatching the Japanese employees would range from six to 11 days, and their dispatch has nothing to do with the military operations of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, stressing that Bahrain is not dangerous.

Keiji Ono, chairman of the Yokosuka Chapter of the All Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union, said that their dispatch is a plan to put the employees' lives in danger and should not be approved. The chairman added that his chapter plans to ask the U.S. Navy to scrap the plan on 28 November, through the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, while considering such protest plans as sit- ins.

Yoshio Kodama, director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, said: We are presently asking the Foreign Ministry because there are no clear-cut regulations on work places for Japanese employees under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The agency has no detailed information on where the Japanese employees will be sent and how many Japanese employees will be sent. The agency wants to confirm these early next week. We cannot make any judgment without this information.

Parliamentary Minister To Visit U.S. 27 Nov

OW2411111490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—Parliamentary Vice Defense Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki will leave Tuesday on a nine-day visit to the United States to meet U.S. Government and congressional officials, the agency said Saturday.

In Washington, Tanigaki is scheduled to meet Brent Scowcroft, assistant to the president for national security, Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald Atwood, Robert Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs, and the chairmen of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees. A meeting with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney is also being sought through diplomatic channels, the agency said.

Discussions between Tanigaki and U.S. officials will center on a U.S. call for Japan to share more of the financial burden of maintaining the some 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan.

Tanigaki will also visit the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado and the Headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Forces in Hawaii before returning home December 5.

26-27 Nov Ministerial Talks With ROK Previewed

OW2411130490 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The Japanese-ROK regular ministerial meeting will be held in Seoul for two days from 26 November. At the meeting, the Japanese Government is expected to disclose to the South Korean side its decision to upgrade the legal status of Korean residents, including improving the current fingerprinting system.

It will be the first regular ministerial meeting between the two countries in four years. Seven ministers, including Foreign Minister Nakayama, Finance Minister Hashimoto, and Justice Minister Kajiyama, will represent Japan at the meeting. They will exchange views with their South Korean counterparts on the situation on the Korean peninsula and on pending bilateral issues.

Japanese Government negotiations with North Korea for a normalization of diplomatic relations are expected to be a key topic of discussion at the ministerial meeting with South Korea. The Japanese ministers plan to ask for South Korea's understanding on this issue, explaining Japan's basic position that the negotiations with North Korea will be pursued carefully and in close contact with South Korea and the United States so that they may contribute to the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula as a whole.

Regarding the controversial issue of fingerprinting, the Japanese side is expected to announce it decision to formulate a measure under which first and second generation South Korean residents in Japan will be treated the same as third generation Koreans once a new system of personal identification is established. Third generation residents are not required to be fingerprinted. The Japanese side also will explain other prospective measures for improving the legal status of Korean residents, including plans to employ more Korean residents as teachers and local government employees.

Meanwhile, in the economic area, the South Korean side is expected to strongly call on Japan to make efforts to reduce South Korea's large deficit with Japan. It also is anticipated that South Korea will call for Japan's cooperation in making high-level technology available to Korea, insisting that it is indispensable for that country's economic growth.

Poll Views Expectations of Gorbachev Visit

OW2411085790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—A majority of people in Japan and the Soviet Union expect a planned visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan in April will herald a new stage in bilateral relations, according to a joint opinion poll by KYODO NEWS SERVICE and TASS News Agency released Saturday. But the poll reveals differences in expectations toward the visit.

Asked if they think the Soviet leader's visit to Japan will provide an opportunity to open a new era in Japan-Soviet relations, 75.9 percent of the Japanese and 59.2 percent of the Soviets surveyed answered "yes." Some 64 percent of the Japanese questioned said they hope the visit will resolve the long-standing territorial dispute with the Soviet Union. In contrast, about 82 percent of Soviet citizens surveyed said they hope the visit will result in expanded bilateral economic cooperation and trade.

The Japanese Government has called for the return of four Soviet-held islands off eastern Hokkaido—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai islet group—as a prerequisite for conclusion of a peace treaty and expansion of economic relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union occupied the islands in the closing days of World War II.

KYODO and TASS each approached 3,000 eligible voters in Japan and the Soviet Union for three days from October 29. Of the total, 1,945 Japanese and 2,625 Soviet citizens replied. The two news agencies first conducted a joint telephone poll in February 1988 in each country.

When asked to specify two outcomes they expect from the Gorbachev visit, 64.4 percent of the Japanese cited a settlement of the territorial dispute and 34.0 percent selected a conclusion of a peace treaty. Meanwhile, 47.0 percent of the Soviets replied that they hope for expanded economic cooperation and 34.8 percen. said they expect more trade. Only 17.6 percent of the Soviets polled said they hope the visit will help solve the territorial issue. Some 43.4 percent of the Japanese said the territorial dispute should be solved as part of developing overall relations between Japan and the Soviet Union while 39.2 percent answered that the two countries should settle the dispute first and then deal with improving their ties.

Asked about ways to solve the territorial problem, 46.0 percent of the Japanese said Japan will persist in calling on the Soviet Union to return the four islands en bloc. However, 25.7 percent expressed support for reversion of the four islands in stages. They said that Japan should call on the Soviet Union to return two of the four islands, Habomai and Shikotan, in the first phase. About 15.6 percent think Tokyo and Moscow should devise new approaches to solving the territorial issue, including U.N. trusteeship and joint control by the two countries. On the Soviet side, 37.5 percent said the two countries should resolve the territorial problem in the course of improving overall bilateral relations. But 23.6 percent said the territorial issue should be shelved and insisted economic and technological cooperation be expanded between the two countries.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said the poll reflects the Soviet people's changing attitude toward the territorial dispute, saying if the poll had been conducted a few years ago, some 90 percent of the Soviets would have expressed opposition to the return of the islands.

On bilateral relations, 88.7 percent of the Japanese and 84.2 percent of the Soviets said they hope for improved Japan-Soviet ties. Some 42 percent of the Japanese replied that they have favorable feelings about the Soviet Union and its people while 34.2 percent reported unfavorable feelings. Only 18 percent of the Japanese said they had good impressions of Soviets in the previous poll. However, 71.7 percent of the Japanese respondents said they do not think the Soviet Union is a democratic society and 49.9 percent answered that they do not view it as a peace-loving nation. But in the Soviet Union, 82.9 percent said they have favorable feelings about the Japanese and 59.2 percent replied they think Japan is a peace-loving nation.

The joint poll also showed big differences in the evaluation of Gorbachev's perestroyka reforms between the Japanese and the Soviets. Asked how they evaluate the Soviet president who is pushing ahead with economic and political reform in the country, some 83 percent of the Japanese respondents gave affirmative response. However, only 37.6 percent of the Soviets said they support Gorbachev while 56.3 percent said they do not evaluate him. According to the poll, the Soviets are more pessimistic than the Japanese about the future of perestroyka. Some 31.9 percent of the Japanese predicted that perestroyka will take root in Soviet society while 46.2 percent said they think it will stagnate. On the Soviet side, a total of 53.9 percent answered that they think perestroyka will stagnate or fail. The poll apparently showed the rapidly waning support for the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Asked what political parties they will support if multiparty, free elections take place in the country, 27.4 percent of the Soviets expressed support for the Communist Party. But 32.5 percent answered they will support political parties other than the Communists. The other 40.1 percent remained noncommittal or did not reply.

Some 30.7 percent of Soviet pollees expressed support for secessionist movements in the nation while 24.2 percent said all republics should remain members of the Soviet Union. About 35.4 percent said the republics remain in the Soviet Union under a looser federal system.

2.6 Billion Yen in Chernobyl Aid Planned

OW2611093990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0732 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka told a symposium on Japanese-Soviet relations Monday that Tokyo plans to provide 2.6 billion yen worth of medical equipment and technological assistance to help victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant meltdown.

The government will include 2 billion yen for medical equipment and 600 million yen for assistance in medical technology in its supplementary budget for this fiscal year, Mitsuzuka said.

The April 16, 1986, explosion and fire at the plant near Kiev released radioactive material which spread over the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and later Western Europe.

Mitsuzuka also said progress is needed in resolving the territorial dispute over a group of islands off Hokkaido, the expansion of dialogue to foster bilateral trust, and the widening of appropriate technological cooperation and humanitarian aid. "While we must exert our best efforts to resolve the territorial problem and conclude a peace treaty, we must also extend humanitarian aid to the utmost limit," he said.

Meanwhile, Nikolay Efimov, head of Izvestiya, a Soviet Government newspaper, took a cautious attitude toward Japanese predictions that President Mikhail Gorbachev will take a conciliatory stance on the disputed islands when he visits Japan in April. Efimov said it is his personal opinion that Gorbachev is following his "new thinking," which does not necessarily mean that his diplomatic position is a conciliatory one. He said Tokyo should not expect concessions in relations with Moscow. Efimov noted, however, that both China and the Soviet Union made concessions to improve their relations.

JSP To Study 3-Party Memo on UN Operations

OW2211094990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) agreed on Thursday to study a memorandum concluded earlier between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two opposition parties in connection with Japan's involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi made the agreement in a meeting with Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa and Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa.

The November 9 memorandum was drawn up by LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, Ichikawa, and Yonezawa. Yamaguchi said, however, that the JSP, Japan's largest opposition party, is not considering entering into an accord with the other three parties on the basis of the memorandum.

The LDP and the two opposition parties drew up the memorandum after the collapse, in the face of strong opposition at home and in other Asian countries, of a government-sponsored U.N. peace cooperation bill that would have allowed Japanese military personnel to be sent overseas. According to the memorandum, a new corps to assist international peacekeeping efforts will be set up but will not include Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel. The corps would engage in U.N. peacekeeping operations and humanitarian relief activities based on U.N. resolutions, as well as disaster relief operations abroad, the memorandum said.

The JSP refused to attend the November 9 meeting, saying the proposal being discussed did not clearly rule out the possibility of the SDF becoming involved in military aspects of U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Yamaguchi said, "The JSP, Komeito, and the DSP will hold another meeting of their secretaries general next month after the JSP completes the study of the memorandum."

Security Council Favors Limiting Defense Growth

OW2211085990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The government's Security Council generally agreed Thursday that growth in Japan's next midterm defense buildup plan should be scaled down in light of the rapid easing of East-West tensions. Most members of the council supported restraint in the growth of defense outlays.

Council members said the international situation has greatly changed and the targets stated in the 1976 defense program outline have been achieved, bringing Japan's defense policy to a turning point. The present five-year midterm plan runs through the end of this fiscal year, which ends next March.

Defense Agency Chief Yozo Ishikawa called a new midterm plan especially necessary in this period of rapid change. He said 80 percent of Japan's defense budget is spent on fixed costs such as personnel and weapons programs started in previous years.

The Security Council, the supreme decision-making body on defense affairs, is chaired by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. It will hold its next session later this month.

Defense Agency Researching 'Aerosol Bomb'

OW2411102190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—A Defense Agency institute is researching an aerosol bomb widely branded

as inhumane because of its massive destructive power, sources close to the agency said Saturday.

The so-called fuel air explosive (FAE) works by spreading a cloud of napalm-like liquid that incinerates the target in a ball of flame. It was used by the United States in Vietnam to clear helicopter landing strips in the jungle.

The agency said it is only researching basic aspects of the FAE and has no plans to develop the weapon. The FAE is said to be seven times as destructive as the same amount of trinitrotoluene (TNT).

According to a report released at a recent meeting at the agency's Technical Research and Development Institute, the research team has confirmed the power of a new fuel material suitable for the weapon in the laboratory. The report said that, although the research is in its first stage, it is expected to make rapid progress.

A ban on FAE has been proposed at U.N.-related disarmament talks because of its massive killing power.

Chukakuha Claims Responsibility for Nagoya Attack

OW2211034790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Osaka, Nov. 22 KYODO—The Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) leftist radical group on Thursday claimed responsibility for Monday's attempted attack on a Shinto shrine in Nagoya, western Japan.

In a mailed statement received by the Osaka branch of KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Thursday, the self-proclaimed Chukakuha Revolutionary Army said it had fired four projectiles at the Atsuta Shrine late Monday night. "We fired four projectiles and successfully hit the Atsuta Shrine. This is the first of a series aimed at destroying the Daijosai," the statement, typed by word processor, said.

The leftist radicals have instigated a series of guerrilla style acts in protest against the series of enthronement rites for Emperor Akihito.

On November 12, Emperor Akihito formally proclaimed his ascent to the throne. For the next five days, the Imperial Palace hosted banquets for hundreds of foreign and Japanese guests to celebrate the occasion.

The Daijosai, or the great thanksgiving ceremony, the last of the major enthronement rituals, will take place from late Thursday through early Friday in which the emperor gives offerings to gods in specially constructed shrines.

On Monday, police found four projectiles near the front and the rear of the prayer hall of the Atsuta Shrine, after witnesses informed them they heard five explosions in the vicinity.

No one was injured in the incident.

Claims Mortar Atttack in Kyoto

OW2311180390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Nov. 23 KYODO—A leftwing extremist group on Friday claimed responsibility for a mortar attack on an imperial villa in Kyoto on Thursday night.

The attack highlighted a series of violence by extremist groups in protest at a controversial Shinto ceremony Emperor Akihito performed overnight at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to mark his enthronement on Monday last week.

The thanksgiving rite, financed by the government and attended by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other government leaders, prompted widespread dissent among politicians and scholars, many of whom argue that it violates the constitutional separation of state and religion.

A statement issued under the name of the Chukakuha group, or the middle core faction, said the group launched the mortar attack on the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto. The defiant statement was distributed at a rally the extremist group staged in Tokyo. Meanwhile, 90 police officers combed the grounds of the Katsura Villa in Kyoto and the mortar-launch site to find clues for the attack.

Four shells were fired from multiple mortar launching tubes toward the sprawling villa shortly after 9 p.m. At least three landed in the grounds of the villa. Police said the attack caused no damage or injuries. Police said they recovered the mortar launcher at a riverside site about 500 meters from the villa.

Chukakuha is the largest leftwing extremist group in Japan, with an estimated membership of 5,000 people. It has also claimed responsibility for similar mortar attacks launched in Tokyo during Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremonies. The mortars were fired toward the Imperial Palace but missed their targets. No damage or injuries were reported.

Just hours after Thursday's mortar attack, fires broke out in succession in three Shinto shrines and four railway stations in five prefectures in the Kanto and Tohoku areas, which police suspect is arson by far left groups opposed to the imperial system. [passage omitted]

Arson Suspected in Burning of Shrine in Fukuoka

OW2211054090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0513 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Fukuoka, Nov. 22 KYODO—A Shirto shrine in Fukuoka city was almost destroyed by fire early Thursday in what police suspect to be another arson by the radicals opposed to the imperial enthronement rituals.

Fire broke out at the rear of the prayer hall of Amaori Shrine, burning 10 square meters of the 13-square-meter

wooden structure, police said. Investigators found batteries and electric wire near the back of the corridor around the hall and there was a smell of gasoline where the fire broke out, police said.

The Amaori Shrine enshrines Niniginomikoto, grandson of the sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami, the legendary founder of the imperial family.

The fire is the second case of suspected arson this year in Fukuoka. On August 24, a 60-square-meter Shinto shrine was totally burned in a suspected guerrilla attack.

Earlier Thursday, the Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) leftist radical group claimed responsibility for Monday's attack on a Shinto shrine in Nagoya, central Japan.

Police in Nagoya found four projectiles late Monday night at the Atsuta Shrine, where five deities including the sun goddess are enshrined.

The leftist radicals have launched a series of guerrilla attacks in protest against the enthronement rites for Emperor Akihito, who formally proclaimed his ascent to the throne November 12.

The Imperial Palace hosted banquets for hundreds of foreign and Japanese guests for the next five days to celebrate the occasion.

The Daijosai, or great thanksgiving ceremony, the last of the major enthronement rituals, in which the emperor gives offerings to gods in specially constructed shrines, will take place from late Thursday through early Friday.

Okinawa Gang War Escalates; 2 Policemen Killed

OW2411030690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0113 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Naha, Nov. 24 KYODO—Two plainclothes policemen were killed and a bystander was seriously wounded by two unknown gunmen outside the prefectual capital Naha of in Okinawa, Friday night.

Police said the officers, Masao Higa, 43, and Shokichi Haine, 42, were patroling the night streets in a car, alert to any disturbance due to the conflict between local yakuza criminal groups since September. Higa received a total of three gunshots that struck him in the head and chest, while Haine was wounded in the left temple in the attack, some 15 kilometers northeast of Naha.

Witnesses said the two gunmen, whom appeared to be yakuza gangsters, approached the car and fired pistols at close range shortly after 11 p.m. The pair then fled in a white car, shooting at a 49-year-old housewife Masako Sawada, who was driving by the scene. She received a serious wound to her left leg, police said.

Okinawa police set up a 700-member squad to investigate the murders. Police officials said it was not immediately known if the suspected gang members shot the officers because they might have mistaken them as a rival group's members.

Conflict between the two gang groups in Okinawa has risen since they split in September due to internal troubles, after previously forming one group.

Two gang members were shot dead in October in separate attacks, and a 19-year-old high school student died on Thursday after being wounded in gunfire near one gang's headquarters in Naha. The attack on the policemen was the 28th incident in the gang battle.

High School Student Killed

OW2411154190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Naha, Nov. 24 KYODO—A gang member was arrested Saturday in the fatal shooting of a high school student mistaken for a member of a rival gang, police said.

Hirofumi Naka, 25, a member of the Okinawa Kyokuryukai Syndicate, conspired with a fellow gang member to kill a member of a rival gang, police said.

Naka fired several shots Thursday at Takeshi Kamiya, a high school student installing metal screens to protect the rival gang office against gasoline bombs, investigators said. One of the shots hit Kamiya in the head, killing him instantly. Kamiya, 19, was a senior at Okinawa Technical High School in Naha, the investigators said. He was working part-time for a company installing the screens.

Naka admitted killing the youth, though he called it a mistake, police said. The pistol used in the killing has yet to be discovered, they said.

Police said they are questioning Naka on whether the incident was related to the fatal shootings of two police officers late Friday amid gang warfare in Okinawa Prefecture.

'Radicals' Vow To Disrupt Emperor's Ise Trip

OW2611064590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0611 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Yokohama, Nov. 26 KYODO—A strong explosion blew out part of a concrete wall on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line in Yokohama early Monday, in what police suspect to be an extremist attack just hours before Emperor Akihito was to use the line to visit the ancient shrine at Ise in central Japan.

The 5:45 a.m. blast scattered concrete blocks and other debris across the tracks about a kilometer west of Shin-Yokohama Station, south of Tokyo, and also caused some damage to power and communications cables at the scene, police said.

No injuries were reported, but the express service was halted at 6:10 a.m., only five minutes before the day's first train to Hakata, Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu, was to reach the scene, where lumps of concrete up to 2 meters square were scattered on the tracks.

The train service was resumed at 8 a.m., but 28 bullet trains were canceled and 79 other trains were delayed as much as two hours, inconveniencing some 140,000 passengers, Japan Railways (JR) officials said.

The emperor and Empress Michiko boarded a Shinkansen train, leaving Tokyo shortly before noon Monday as scheduled despite the attack. They were on their way to visit the Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture, southwest of Nagoya, where the emperor will "report to the ancestral gods" on his accession to the imperial throne, according to Imperial Household Agency officials.

Police said they discovered small batteries at the scene of the explosion, where explosives were apparently planted behind the top of the protective wall some 12 meters up from the ground. The wall is beside a Buddhist temple, where police said whoever was responsible might have trespassed to plant the bomb. The blast toppled tombstones in the temple graveyard and flying debris damaged the roofs of nearby houses and parked cars.

Before the explosion, the authorities had planned to more than double the number of police personnel deployed in Kanagawa Prefecture to 7,000 after 8 a.m.

Police said they concluded the bombing was carried out by radical leftist activists opposed to the imperial system, who have launched a series of attacks against police dormitories, railway stations, and other facilities connected with the emperor's enthronement.

Two groups—Chukakuha (Middle-Core Faction) and Kakurokyo—have claimed responsibility for most of the some 125 such incidents this year, including those related to the opposition to expansion work at Narita Airport in Chiba Prefecture. Sixty-one of the attacks have occurred since the November 12 enthronement ceremony.

A police officer was killed by a bomb shortly before the enthronement and the wife of a company executive died in a fire believed to have been set by radicals opposed to the Narita Airport project.

The radicals have vowed to disrupt the imperial couple's 2,000- kilometer trip to Ise and other points in western Japan, police said.

Emperor Akihito proclaimed his enthronement in the November 12 ceremony in Tokyo's Imperial Palace, watched by many delegates, including representatives from 158 nations. He also conducted the Daijosai, or great thanksgiving rite, the controversial state-funded secret Shinto ceremony last Thursday and Friday.

NPA Studying New Laws To Control Criminals

OW2511231790 Tokyo KYODO in English 2304 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The National Police Agency (NPA) is studying new legislation that would hurt underground crime syndicates by cutting off their sources of money, according to NPA officials.

The NPA estimates that the nation's 87,000 gangsters had income of 1.3 trillion yen last year. The agency is concerned that underground organizations are developing new sources of income by arranging out-of-court settlements of disputes such as traffic accidents and by collecting debts, the officials said.

Some 700 billion yen of the gangsters' income came from selling stimulant drugs, gambling, and bookmaking, according to the NPA. The gangsters are also increasingly threatening companies into subscribing to their publications, the officials said.

Under current laws, it is difficult for authorities to confiscate the profits from this kind of extortion, the officials noted. The new legislation would make it easier to confiscate the crime groups' illegal profits. The NPA is also considering strengthening penalties against illegal possession of handguns, the officials said.

An NPA panel made up of 15 legal experts, critics, and business people will hold its first meeting Thursday to study the measures.

Japan's three largest underground syndicates—Yamaguchi-Gumi, Inagawa-Kai, and Sumiyoshi-Rengo—have increased their forces, and now account for some 43 percent of the country's total gangsters, according to the NPA.

Four Opposition Parties Oppose Daijosai Rite

OW2111144690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 21 (KYODO)—Four opposition parties on Wednesday expressed their opposition to the state-financed Daijosai, a Shinto-style Thanksgiving rite, to be held at the Imperial Palace from Thursday night to early Friday morning.

The Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito, the Japan Communist Party (JCP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) issued statements criticizing the government for allocating 2.57 billion yen to finance the Daijosai.

The JSP said in a statement that the government is violating the democratic principles of the Constitution—the separation of politics from religion—to finance the Daijosai ceremony, in which the newly enthroned emperor makes offerings of food to his ancestral deities and Shinto gods. A separate statement, issued by Komeito, the JCP, and the USDP, also said the government is riding roughshod over the Constitution, which stipulates the separation of politics from religions. But the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) issued statements celebrating the Daijosai. The LDP statement said the Daijosai should be preserved because it was part of Japanese tradition and history.

Spokesman on Shinto Rites

OW2211094390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—The top government spokesman dismissed allegations Thursday that the cabinet's participation in Shinto rites accompanying Emperor Akihito's enthronement is a violation of the principle of separation of religion and state.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said the Daijosai thanksgiving rites are part of the enthronement tradition and serve the public because the emperor prays on behalf of the Japanese people. "This does not mean that politics is meddling in religion, or that religion is increasing its influence in politics," he said. Other nations also include religion in official ceremonies, Sakamoto noted, citing the participation of archbishops in British coronation ceremonies and the practice of U.S. Presidents placing a hand on the bible when being sworn into office. Sakamoto said keeping part of the ceremony secret from the public is necessary in the name of preserving tradition. "It is a tradition not to make public the contents of the ceremony," he said. "The public is very interested in the ceremony, so it is natural to pay for them with public funds," he said.

The government pays 2.5 billion yen out of public funds for the ceremony held at two specially built shrines inside the Imperial Palace.

Sakamoto said he is not inclined to enquire about the content of the ceremony because of its mystical elements.

In the six hours of ceremonies conducted overnight Thursday, Emperor Akihito announces his accession to the throne to mythical imperial ancestors and makes offerings of food and sake.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his cabinet attend the ceremony but are only permitted to see the imperial family as they walk in and out of the specially constructed shrine.

Kaifu Reaffirms Commitment to Political Reform

OW2411153190 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Kaifu reaffirmed today that he still is staking his political leadership on the success of political reform. Speaking to members of the Liberal Demcoratic Party [LDP] Political Reform Panel, led by Mr. Ito, Mr. Kaifu called for the early finalization of a proposal on the reform of the election system.

In the meeting, Mr. Ito and other officials briefed Mr. Kaifu on the discussions on political reform held within the LDP thus far. Mr. Ito said the panel will work out final recommendations after reexamining issues related to combining a single-seat constituency system with a proportional representation system for elections to the House of Representatives, one of the key ideas presented by the party. One of the questions in this connection is whether votes cast for candidates under the single-seat constituency system also will be regarded as votes cast for parties under the proportional representation system. Mr. Ito said the panel will submit its final recommendations to the party president as soon as the panel reaches agreement on them. He said the final recommendations will then be subject to official approval by the LDP.

Prime Minister Kaifu said that political reform is an election pledge of the LDP and that criticism from the people will rise if the party fails to accomplish it. He reaffirmed that he has staked his political leadership on the success of reform. Mr. Kaifu called on the panel to work out the final recommendations as soon as possible.

Earlier, Mr. Ito and other officials paid a visit to former Deputy Prime Minister Miyazawa, who heads one of the factions in the party, and asked him to cooperate in drawing up the final recommendations. Mr. Miyazawa said that the party members are less concerned about the election system than the democratic procedures relating to the official recoginition of candidates and the distribution of campaign money. He said this matter should not be discussed from a partisan perspective. Mr. Ito and the other members on the panel are planning to ask for the cooperation of the other faction leaders.

Council Set Up To Fight Hiring Discrimination

OW2411131690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Kobe, Nov. 24 KYODO—Several citizens' groups decided Saturday to establish a National Liaison Council to fight a rule barring foreign residents, most of them Koreans, from government jobs.

The so-called nationality clause bars foreign residents, even those born in Japan, from applying for government positions on the ground that they should not be involved in exercising public power or forming public policies.

Ahead of a Japanese-South Korean ministerial meeting opening Monday in Seoul, Japanese Government officials have said they will advise local governments to relax the rule, but foreign residents will still be barred from general clerical, general technical and welfare-related jobs. The decision to establish the council was made during a national meeting of Mintoren, a federation of groups fighting racial discrimination, in Kobe.

Korean residents are fighting in court for the right to work in local municipal offices in Kobe and Fukuoka, and their supporters were among those attending.

Activists decided the National Council was needed to link groups fighting employment barriers around the country for talks with the Home Affairs Ministry. They were also spurred to take coordinated action by the consultations under way between the Japanese and South Korean Governments on the status of Korean

residents in Japan, and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's plans to visit Seoul in January.

The council plans to set up an office in Tokyo or Osaka and appeal for support from labor unions and other organizations, members said.

A few municipal governments now allow foreign residents to take job examinations, but Korean residents say most prefectural governments and major cities still bar them from employment.

On Saturday, rally participants visited Kobe City Hall and called on the city to take the lead in opening jobs to foreign residents as an "internationalized city." No problems have been reported from local governments which employ Korean residents, the petitioners said.

City officials maintained it would be difficult for Kobe to drop the nationality clause unilaterally, because the issue involves the national government.

Carcinogenic Substance Found in Hepatitis Virus

OW2411103590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—A joint Japan-U.S. medical research group has reported discovering a carcinogenic substance in the virus of B-type hepatitis. An estimated 200 million people suffer from type B hepatitis around the world.

The research team led by Kazuhiko Koike of the University of Tokyo and Gilbert Jay of the U.S. National Hygenic Institute and Red Cross Society said the findings will be reported at a meeting Monday in Kyoto of the Japan Molecular Biology Society.

The researchers said mice transplanted with a portion of genes from type B hepatitis virus developed liver cancer at a high rate of 80 percent. Type X genes in the hepatitis virus has been suspected of causing liver cancer.

The researchers said they transplanted type X gene extracted from the hepatitis virus to 80 impregnated mice eggs. Tests later showed that the liver cancer began to develop in new-born mice starting about a year after their births. A year and nine months after their birth, cancer was detected in 90 percent of male mice and 70 percent of female mice for an average of 80 percent, the researchers said.

The researchers said there is a strong possibility that the X type gene is also responsible for causing cancer in the human body.

Keidanren Head Saito Announces Resignation

OW2611093190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0635 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), Eishiro Saito, said Monday that he will resign before his current two-year term ends as chief of Japan's most powerful economic organization.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Tokyo Electric Co. and vice chairman of Keidanren, will assume the post, Saito told reporters.

Saito's resignation will become official at the December 21 extraordinary meeting of Keidanren.

Saito, director and honorary chairman of Nippon Steel Corp., succeeded the late Yoshihiro Inayama as Keidanren chairman in 1986. Inayama also once headed Nippon Steel, Japan's steel giant. Saito was reelected as Keidanren chairman in May for his third term.

The resignation by Saito is the first by an incumbent Keidanren chairman since that of Ichiro Ishikawa, its first chairman, who resigned in 1956 after serving nine years and six months.

Hiraiwa, 76, a graduate of Tokyo University, entered Tokyo Electric and moved up the ladder to assume the company's presidency in 1976. He became its chairman in 1984, while serving as Keidanren vice chairman since 1978.

Major issues Hiraiwa will have to tackle on assuming Keidanren's highest post include restructuring of the organization itself, economic aid to the Soviet Union, and U.S.-Japan relations, analysts say.

Hiraiwa is said to have close political ties, notably with faction leaders in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). But his connections extend to more than just party bosses. Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the LDP, describes Hiraiwa as "one of the most reliable businessmen I know."

One analyst acknowledged there had been prior rumors of Saito's resignation. "People were pointing out his lack of leadership compared with past chairmen, such as the late Yoshihiro Inayama," he said. The analyst said that as early as May there was opposition to Saito continuing in the post. He said Saito's critics felt he had not properly handled the Recruit scandal and the on-going land tax reform issue.

Saito, 79, cited his age and the need to pave the way for the younger generation within the governing body of Keidanren as reasons for his resignation. But the analyst said, "If that's the case, he shouldn't have assumed his third term this spring in the first place."

Loan To Finance Imports Extended to Turkey

TA2111130690 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] An agreement of a $200 million Japanese loan to be extended to Turkey because of the Gulf crisis was signed in Tokyo today. The agreement was signed by Turkish Ambassador in Tokyo Oguz Arik and Akira Mashigaki, president of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Foundation.

According to an ANATOLIA report, the loan, which will be used by Turkey to finance imports from various countries, will carry an interest rate of one percent and will be repaid in 30 years, with no payments during the first 10 years.

Crude Oil Imports Increase in Oct

OW2211092590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan imported 141.07 million barrels of crude oil in October, a 21.6 percent jump from a year earlier, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in a preliminary report Thursday.

MITI said the increase is partly due to a government request for Japanese companies to buy crude instead of petroleum products, whose prices have skyrocketed since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Though Japan imported no crude from Iraq and Kuwait owing to its embargo against these nations, increased oil supplies from other Middle East countries more than offset the losses, boosting Japan's crude imports from the region by 20.0 percent from a year earlier. The nation's crude imports posted rises from all areas except Central and Latin America.

In October, Japan's dependence on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for crude oil came to 76.9 percent, up 1.5 percentage points from September.

Japan's production of petroleum products amounted to 16.34 million kiloliters, up 19.8 percent from the year before, while its imports dropped 15.6 percent to 3.65 million kiloliters.

Reflecting strong domestic demand, sales of these products rose 5.0 percent to 17.63 million kiloliters in October. Sales increased in all types of oil products except naphtha and heavy oil B.

North Korea

Further Reportage on Yon Hyong-muk China Visit

Arrives in Beijing 23 Nov

SK2311142890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, arrived in Beijing today by air to pay an official goodwill visit to China at the invitation of Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council. Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu, Vice Minister of External Economic Affairs Kim Chong-u, and other delegation members arrived with the premier.

A ceremony was held at the square in front of the East Gate of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to welcome the premier of our country's Administration Council. The flags of our country and China were flying in the square.

Present at the welcoming ceremony were Li Peng, premier of the Chinese State Council; Vice Premier Wu Xueqian; Luo Gan, secretary general of the State Council; Qi Yuanjing, minister of metallurgical industry; Qi Huaiyuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; Wang Wendong, vice minister of foreign economic affairs and trade; Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; and other officials.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk firmly shook hands with Premier Li Peng and exchanged greetings with other Chinese cadres. A Chinese child presented a bouquet to the premier of our country's Administration Council. While the national anthems of our country and the PRC were being played, a 19-gun salute was fired. Along with Premier Li Peng, Premier Yon Hyong-muk reviewed the honor guard of the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the People's Liberation Army. This was followed by a parade of the honor guard.

Previously, at the airport, the delegation by the premier of the Administration Council was received by Qi Yuanjing, Chinese minister of metallurgical industry; Qi Huaiyuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; and other officials concerned. Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to China, and officials of the embassy were also present at the airport.

Li Peng Arranges Banquet

SK2411001790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, yesterday held a banquet for Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of our country, who is visiting China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

The following were invited to the banquet: Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of the Administration Council; Cha Pong-chu, vice minister of foreign affairs; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Affairs; Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRC; and other delegation members.

The following also attended: Wu Xueqian, vice premier of the Chinese State Council; Luo Gan, secretary general of the State Council; Qi Yuanjing, minister of the Metallurgical Industry; Ai Zhisheng, minister of radio and television; Yuan Mu, spokesman of the State Council; Qi Huaiyuan, vice minister of foreign affairs; Li Shuzheng, deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; Teng Teng, vice minister of the State Education Commission; Zhu

Lilan, vice minister of the State Science and Technology Commission; Wang Wendong, vice minister of Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade; Liu Deyou, vice minister of Ministry of Culture; Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and other functionaries concerned.

The banquet began with the anthems of our country and the PRC.

The banquet was held in an warm and friendly atmosphere.

Arrives in Tianjin

SK2611055490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the Administration Council of Korea and his party on an official goodwill visit to China arrived in Tianjin by train on November 24 for a local tour.

That day the premier and his party were invited to a banquet given by the mayor of the Tianjin Municipal People's Government and saw an art performance arranged by the Municipal People's Government.

On November 25, they visited the Tianjin new port, the Tianjin No. 2 shoes factory and spinning mill.

Chinese Reportage on Visit

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For Chinese reportage on the visit to China by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, including reports on his meetings with Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun, see the Northeast Asia section of the 26 November and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

KCNA Views Ambassador Gregg's 'Confession'

SK2411100990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—U.S. Ambassador in Seoul Gregg told a "government"-sponsored function in Seoul on November 21 that a recent poll in South Korea had found 80 percent of those polled attributed the division of the Korean peninsula to the United States, according to a report.

He cried that the negative view on the United States widespread in South Korea jeopardizes the relations between South Korea and the United States.

Such confession and outcry of the colonial governor-general show how much the U.S. imperialists are perplexed by the fact that anti- U.S. feelings are growing among the South Korean people and their colonial rule is shaking to its very foundation.

Gregg was ridiculous enough to mumble that the growing anti-U.S. sentiments in South Korea resulted from "misunderstanding" about the United States on the part of the South Korean people, in an effort to belittle the significance of the anti-American sentiments.

This rigmarole brought into a bolder relief the predicament of the U.S. imperialists in South Korea.

The anti-American feelings in South Korea are an offspring of the dark colonial rule for nearly half a century, which can never be quelled.

With no amount of attempt can the U.S. imperialists conceal the root cause of the anti-American feelings in South Korea. They should get out of South Korea before they are faced with a greater resistance.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Solomon Remarks

SK2611095890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0031 GMT 26 Nov 90

[NODONG SINMUN 26 November commentary: "The Aggressor Is Still Dreaming of a War"]

[Text] In a speech on U.S. policy toward the Asian-Pacific region, Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, again revealed the wicked U.S. ambition of invading Korea and Far Eastern areas.

He said that the most important U.S. strategic stronghold in Asia is the U.S. armed forces deployed in the advanced areas in South Korea in accordance with the mutual defense treaty.

In April this year, the U.S. Defense Department made public its so-called Far Eastern strategy and announced that the deployment of troops in the advanced areas in the Far East will be a basic factor for maintaining U.S. security in the coming 10-year period. Solomon's remarks reconfirm this announcement.

This means that in considering South Korea important for their strategy of military aggression in the Far East, the U.S. imperialists are going to continue their occupation of South Korea and their deployment of nuclear weapons there for a long time. They are attempting to permanently grasp South Korea as a stronghold for aggression and war against our Republic and other countries.

In implementing its global strategy, the United States, giving greater significance to the Asian-Pacific region, worked out various plans for military operations in this area. In particular, the United States is accelerating preparations for an aggressive war while constantly staging war exercises, including the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, whose spearhead is directed at us, and Pacific exercises.

As a result, South Korea has turned into the most forward nuclear base of the U.S. imperialists and the source of a new war. They plan to trigger a war at any moment with U.S. forces deployed in the advanced areas

of South Korea and to start an anti-Republic and anti-socialist armed offensive operation.

Solomon's provocative and violent remarks clearly show how hastily the U.S. imperialists are attempting to venture into a war on the Korean Peninsula.

The reinforcement of U.S. troops and the war preparatory maneuvers in the U.S. imperialists' strategy for the deployment of armed forces in advanced areas in South Korea have aggravated the state of military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula each day and have strained the situation to an extreme point.

At the U.S.-South Korea Security Consultative Conference held some time ago in Washington, the further strengthening of the occupation of South Korea by U.S. troops was discussed. Also discussed was the further acceleration of war preparations and, in particular, the perpetration of a nuclear war adventure. Solomon's speech was timed to conincide with this conference. This is not an accident.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula indispensably demands the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea at an early date.

The U.S. authorities frequently talk about peace in Korea and North-South dialogue. Solomon also mentioned them this time. If their remarks are true, they should make a public promise for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and for the discontinuation of acts inciting the North-South confrontation.

However, Solomon has never mentioned these issues. Needless to say, as long as the U.S. troops remain in South Korea, one can never think of the elimination of military confrontation on the Korean Peninsula, of durable peace, and of the peaceful reunification of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' remarks about peace in Korea, dialogue, and so forth are all merely empty talk and a trick to conceal their aggressive nature.

The U.S. imperialists are attempting to militarily rule the Far Eastern areas by depending on their troops deployed in advanced areas, which they claim as the basis of their Far Eastern strategy. They are also attempting to continuously grasp South Korea as their strategic stronghold by blocking Korea's reunification.

For these vile aims, the U.S. imperialists frequently waged false, slanderous propaganda on North Korea's so-called research and development of nuclear weapons. Solomon is also taking a part in this. He unjustly provoked us by saying that we have not signed the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement and that nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula is the essential threat to security in East Asia. He foolishly attempted to shift the responsibility for this onto us.

Who on earth is perpetrating nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula, and who on earth is blocking our conclusion of a nuclear safeguards treaty?

Proceeding from a consistent peace-loving position, we have implemented a thorough non-nuclear policy. Our proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula for peace is widely known in the world.

The nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula is a criminal act committed by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea. Those who have deployed more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and who are waging the nuclear war preparation racket are none other than the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

As is clear to everyone, the U.S. imperialists are the very ringleaders who are driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the Far East to the brink of a nuclear war.

We have not concluded the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement even after having participated in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty because of the wicked U.S. nuclear scheme which is threatening us. Under conditions in which the United States threatening us with nuclear weapons, we cannot unilaterally conclude the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement. If the United States legally guarantees that it will not threaten us with nuclear weapons, we will conclude the Nuclear Safeguards Agreement at any time.

The slanderous propaganda on someone else's research and development of nuclear weapons only reveals the U.S. attempt for a nuclear offensive against us. The United States should discontinue such a nonsensical act as a thief calling "stop thief!"

The U.S. imperialists' aggressive policy toward Korea and their strategy on the Far East are a basic element threatening peace in these areas. Their occupation of South Korea and the lines for division and war against the Korean people are the basic obstacles to resolving the Korean issues. If the United States continuously adheres to such an anachronistic policy, it will only result in accelerating its own downfall. The United States must withdraw the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea by ending its occupation of South Korea.

South 'Unreasonable' During Music Festival Talks

SK2611105390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Panmunjom November 26 (KCNA)—A working officials' contact between the North and the South for the discussion of working matters concerning the participation of the Pyongyang National Musical Troupe in the "Traditional Concert for Reunification Seeing the Year 1990 Out" slated in Seoul was held at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom from 10:00 to 11:30 today.

Present at the contact on our side were three working officials of the Pyongyang National Musical Troupe and on the South side were three Red Cross liaison officials in Panmunjom.

Discussed at the contact first was the question of the number of our side's troupe members going to the concert.

As already reported, Kim Won-kyun, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians' Union, in his November 21 letter fully supported the sponsorship of the "Traditional Concert for Reunification Seeing the Year 1990 Out" in Seoul and, taking into consideration our artists' desire to meet and sing the song of reunification with South Korean Artists and share compatriotic feelings with them, proposed about 50 as the number of the North side's participants.

At today's contact our side gave a detailed explanation of the reason why the number of our side's participants in the concert should be 50, and its reasonableness.

The South side, however, rejected the proposed number on the ground that "it has not booked the lodging place," "the burden is heavy" and "practical preparations have not been made for performances of a musical troupe of 50 musicians".

Refuting the South side's unreasonable argument, our side made clear our position that, the North and the South being the same nation, if the South side has a problem in lodging place, a place for 30 people may accommodate 50 and the North side may bear the expense. And it urged the South side to set the number of the North side's participants at 50 in conformity with the ever growing desire for reunification of compatriots in the North, the South and overseas and continue the contact in the afternoon to clinch the matter.

But the South side proposed to meet tomorrow again, saying that it had no other choice but to give an answer after having a detailed discussion back to Seoul.

So, the sides agreed to continue the working-level contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at two on the afternoon of November 27.

Delegates to 29 Nov N-S Sports Talks Listed

SK2611104190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—According to the spokesman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the delegation of our side to the North-South sports talks to be held in Panmunjom from November 29 consists of:

Head Kim Hyong-chin, vice-chairman of the DPRK Olympic Committee; deputy head Chang Ung, secretary of the DPRK Olympic Committee; delegate Kim Chong-sik, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee; delegate Kim Sang-pu, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee; delegate Kim Yong-sok, member of the DPRK Olympic Committee.

Country Plaas To Build New Atomic Power Plant

OW2411151590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 KYODO—North Korea is planning to build an atomic power plant in Sinpo on the country's eastern coast without sufficient study of the earthquake-prone location, a South Korean news agency has quoted Radio Moscow as reporting. Radio Moscow cited reports in a Vladivostok newspaper Thursday as saying Sinpo is not an appropriate site because it is in an earthquake belt, NAEWOE PRESS said.

This was the first report of the planned project.

North Korea operates an experimental plant in the suburbs of Pyongyang, and plans to build four atomic reactors with a total output of 440,000 kilowatts with aid from the Soviet Union.

The Vladivostok paper said North Korea has concealed vital technical data on the project and demanded that it submit an authoritative site assessment to Moscow because the plant would directly involve the safety of the people of the Far East and the entire Soviet Union.

South Korea

Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama Attends Talks

Pledges To Consult on N. Korea

OW2611030090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0234 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (KYODO)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama pledged Monday that Japan will fully consult South Korea before promoting talks with North Korea aimed at establishing diplomatic ties with that country. Nakayama, speaking at the opening of a two-day ministerial meeting here, said Japan hopes the Japanese-North Korean taiks will help promote detente, peace, and stability on the Korean peninsula.

Japan and North Korea have so far held two rounds of preliminary talks in Beijing paving the way for full-fledged talks toward normalizing diplomatic ties between them.

Seven cabinet memebrs each from Japan and South Korea are attending the ministerial session. Among them are Nakayama and South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Justic Ministers Seiroku Kajiyama and Yi Chong-nam, and Finance Ministers Ryutaro Hashimoto and Chong Yong-ui.

Later Monday, the seven Japanese Cabinet members will meet separately with President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun.

South Korean Foreign Minister Choe, addressing the opening-day session, renewed Seoul's call for Japan to exercise prudence in promoting normalization talks with North Korea.

During a meeting with powerful Japanese conservative politician Shin Kanemaru on October 8, President No called for full consultations with South Korea before Japan improves ties with Pyongyang.

Prime Minister Kang asked Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier this month to see that consultations with the North are kept in balance with developments in the inter-Korean dialogue.

Kanemaru, who visited North Korea in September as head of a delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, issued a joint declaration with North Korean leaders urging early establishment of diplomatic ties between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

Choe Ho-chung Urges 'Prudence'

OW2611041690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 26 Nov 90

[By Hiromi Takigami]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 KYODO—South Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung urged Japan on Monday to exercise prudence in holding talks on establishing diplomatic ties with North Korea. In response, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama assured South Korea that Tokyo will keep in close contact with Seoul on the matter.

Choe, addressing the opening of a two-day ministerial session in Seoul, touched on moves toward rapprochement between Japan and North Korea following a joint declaration issued in Pyongyang on September 28. The joint declaration, issued by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the no. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), and North Korea's governing Korean Worker's Party, called for early establishment of diplomatic links.

Japan and North Korea have so far held two rounds of preliminary talks on the issue in Beijing.

The foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea, in their opening addresses, vowed to work together for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world as well.

In his keynote speech, Choe said the wave of detente is now spreading all over the world and the tendency is sure to have a positive impact on the international situation. Choe also touched upon President No Tae-u's visit to Japan in May, and said the improvement of Japan-South Korea relations helps promote the partnership between the two nations.

Nakayama, who spoke after Choe, hailed the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union on September 30, saying it reflects "a fundamental change in the confrontation between the East and West."

Nakayama also welcomed No's planned visit to the Soviet Union later this year, saying it will help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula. He said Japan will help promote dialogue between the two Koreas and seek improved relations with Pyongyang while consulting closely with Seoul.

Seven cabinet members each from Japan and South Korea attended the session, the first of its kind since one in Tokyo in December 1986.

South Korean ministers attending include Foreign Minister Choe, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam, and Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su.

Nakayama, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama, and International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto are among the Japanese delegates.

Choe urged Japan to improve the legal status of Korean residents of Japan. In response, Nakayama promised efforts to terminate Japan's fingerprinting requirements for legally defined first- and second- generation Koreans, as Japan earlier pledged to do for third- generation Koreans.

First-generation Koreans are defined as those living in Japan since before August 15, 1945 and those born in Japan before January 16, 1971. Second-generation Koreans are defined as those born in Japan after January 17, 1971, and third-generation as the children of the second generation.

An estimated 680,000 number Koreans now reside in Japan, many of them descendants of conscripted Korean laborers brought over during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula between 1910 and 1945. All foreign residents in Japan are required to be fingerprinted at age 16.

Under a Japan-South Korea agreement reached last April 30, only third-generation Koreans are exempt from fingerprinting. The accord also grants them the automatic right of permanent residency, and limits deportation of resident Koreans to those found guilty of subversive crimes.

Nakayama said in his speech that Japan will settle the issue in good faith by next January 16, when the two nations have agreed to decide on the status of third-generation Korean residents of Japan under a 1965 bilateral protocol.

Choe also asked Japan to promote assistance for South Korean atom-bomb victims and for Koreans left on the Soviet Far East Island of Sakhalin after Japan's postwar pullout. The South Korean foreign minister said it is high time for both nations to set their people free from past legacies and turn their eyes to the future.

Choe also touched upon trade friction between the two countries and the transfer of high technology to South Korea, and said his country wants to strengthen ties with Japan in the technological field so that it can develop advanced industries as part of efforts to correct the trade imbalance with Japan.

Nakayama said Japan agreed to inaugurate a joint committee for basic scientific research in May when No visited Tokyo. "Japan has decided to offer about 500 million yen in business cooperation to South Korea in the next fiscal year to help Seoul set up a center for research on new materials," Nakayama added.

The Japanese ministers are scheduled to meet President No and Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun following a plenary session and a series of bilateral sessions between counterparts Monday.

The two countries' ministers will have a second and final plenary meeting Tuesday.

Agreement on Science Committee

SK2611083590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0758 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan agreed in principle Monday to set up a joint basic science cooperation committee next month and launch 22 nuclear science research projects next year, government sources said. The two countries will also encourage agreements between individual agencies and pursue establishment of another joint project on new materials as a result of discussions between Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and his Japanese counterpart, Tomoji Oshima, on the first day of the 15th Korea-Japan Ministerial Conference.

The Basic Science Cooperation Committee, to be launched some time in December, will comprise 14 leading scientists from the Korea Science Foundation and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, according to the officials. Annual meetings will alternate between Seoul and Tokyo for deciding on projects, setting up exchanges of researchers and arranging seminars.

The two ministers also agreed to start 22 joint research projects on nuclear science and safety studies next year. The Korea-Japan Nuclear Cooperation Council, which held its first meeting earlier this month here, will be in charge of these projects, the officials said.

Seoul and Tokyo will fully support individual pacts by agencies of the two countries, especially on topics mentioned during President No Tae-u's visit to Japan last May such as aviation, marine science and new materials.

The Nuclear Council and the Science Technology Cooperation Committee will serve as official channels in setting details. The two countries plan to conclude an agreement on the basic science committee when the Science Technology Cooperation Committee meets Dec. 12-13.

Japan To Stop Fingerprinting

SK2611094790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0931 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan has agreed to abolish fingerprinting of first- and second-generation Koreans as soon as an alternative method of identification is devised, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said Monday. Japan will also exempt them from regulations requiring residents to carry an alien registration card at all times, extend the reentry permit period from two years to between three and five years and expel only those convicted of serious anti-state crimes, the ministry said.

The agreements came on the first day of the 15th Korea-Japan ministerial conference on Monday in a meeting between Foreign Ministers Choe Ho-Chung of Korea and Taro Nakayama of Japan.

These terms, aimed at upgrading the legal status of Koreans in Japan, already apply to third-generation Koreans and their descendants under an agreement in April's foreign ministers' meeting. The Seoul government has been demanding that Tokyo expand the terms to include first- and second-generation Koreans as well.

The approximately 700,000 Koreans in Japan, who were mostly taken forcibly to work at labor camps during World War II or are their children, have been treated the same as all other foreigners and subjected to fingerprinting under the alien registration law.

Japan will seek alternatives to fingerprinting, most likely a family register system where the government will keep information on each individual's family background and status, according to ministry officials.

The two sides, however, could agree on improving employment opportunities for Koreans in government or education institutes, as demanded by Seoul.

Seven ministers from the two sides, including finance, justice, agriculture-fisheries and trade-industry, are attending the conference, convening for the first time in four years.

Minister Rejects Soviet Denuclearization Proposal

SK2411060390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said Saturday a Soviet proposal for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was "impractical" without a security guarantee by the surrounding powers. "It is impractical to make only the Korean peninsula nuclear free without a consensus and guarantee by the surrounding powers and consideration in general of the situation in Northeast Asia. Those countries presumably have deployed many nuclear weapons," Choe said.

He was commenting on a statement Thursday by an aide to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the Soviet Union would seek denuclearization of Korea. Vadim Medvedev, a member of the Soviet Presidential Council, speaking before a group of Korean entrepreneurs, also said the Soviet Union would withdraw 200,000 troops from Asia by 1992 and asked the United States to do the same from Korea.

"In the circumstances, as delivery systems for nuclear weapons are developing rapidly, it should be noted that the political will to use them remains the key rather than whether a nation possesses them," Choe said.

The foreign minister said Medvedev's speech, delivered during a breakfast meeting organized by the Korea-USSR Economic Association and the Korea-USSR Business Club, was "nothing new." He noted that a similar theme was aired by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a speech in Vladivostok Sept. 4 and in an article in the Soviet Government daily IZVESTIA Oct. 2.

On President No Tae-u's visit to Moscow next month, Choe said it could be a turning point for unification of the Korean peninsula as it would induce North Korea to enter the global currents and reform.

USSR, DPRK Suspend Joint Military Exercises

SK2611093890 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 26 Nov 90 p 2

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] On 26 November, quoting Tokyo's military sources, Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN reported that the Soviet Union and North Korea this year did not conduct joint military exercises which usually are held annually in September and October in the East Sea. It said this shows that the rapid cooling of relations between the two countries also has occurred in the military field.

According to sources, the Soviet Union and North Korea have conducted joint military exercises each year in the fall since 1986, involving both side's navies in the East Sea off North Korea's Chongjin.

South, North To Meet 26 Nov on Concert

SK2511003090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] South Korea has accepted a North Korean proposal for holding of a meeting between South and North Korean liaison officials to discuss North Korean participation in the 90 Year-End Traditional Music Concert, Dec. 9-15, the National Unification Board said yesterday. The concert is scheduled for performance in Seoul Dec. 9-15.

In a telephone message to Kim Won-kyun, Central Committee chairman of the North Korean Musicians Association, Hwang Pyong-ki, leader of the Seoul Traditional Art Troupe, proposed that the preliminary meeting be held Monday in Panmunjom.

Hwang also requested North Korea to transmit a list of its musicians selected to perform in the concert as soon as possible.

Sides Fail To Agree on Details

SK2611042690 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The two sides of North and South Korea held a working- level contact at 1000 today at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom to discuss the 1990 year-end traditional music festival for reunification to be held in Seoul. They discussed the composition of the North Korean artists' group, music programs, and the itinerary of the group's stay in Seoul. However, they failed to reach a complete agreement and agreed to meet again in Panmunjom at 1400 tomorrow to discuss the issues.

It was learned that the working-level delegates of the two sides agreed that the North Korean musicians will come to Seoul early next month via Panmunjom, will give two performances in the Seoul Arts Center and the National Theater and make tours, and will return via Panmunjom. It was also learned that in today's contact, our side insisted that the number of the North Korean artists to come to Seoul be 30 and that the North Korean side insisted on 50 and that, as a result, the two sides had difficulty in reaching an agreement. If the 1990 year-end music festival for reunification is held in Seoul, this will be the second North-South civilian artistic exchange, following last month's pan-national music festival for reunification in Pyongyang, since the division.

No Chae-won To Head Trade Office in Beijing

SK2411034990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—No Chae-won, an ambassador- at-large, Saturday was named chief of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) representative office in Beijing, the Foreign Ministry said.

"Appointment of No to head the Beijing trade office needs no agreement because Korea and China have not yet established diplomatic ties," a spokesman for the Ministry said. "No will take up his post early January, when the representative office will formally open."

Yun Hae-chung, vice-consul in Hong Kong, who was chosen as assistant chief of the KOTRA office in Beijing, and six other officials from the Foreign Ministry and KOTRA are expected to go to the Chinese capital late this month to arrange the opening of the office.

KOTRA and the Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) agreed Oct. 18 in Beijing to set up trade offices in each country's capital, while giving diplomatic immunity to officials at the mission under an understanding between the two governments.

No, 58, a graduate of Seoul National University Law School, had been vice foreign minister, ambassador to Iran, Kuwait and Canada, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, and has served as ambassador-at-large since 1988.

Burma

Khin Nyunt, Officials Witness Burning of Drugs

BK2411145190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Committee for Development of Border Regions and Indigenous People and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, left Rangoon by a military plane for Lasio in the morning of 22 November. He was accompanied by committee members—Commodore Than Nyunt, chief of staff of the Navy; Brigadier General Thein Win, chief of staff of the Air Force; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals; Brigadier General Thaung Myint, director of military engineers; Director General San Thein of the People's Police Force—and responsible officials from the Office of the SLORC and the Office of the Committee for Development of Border Regions and Indigenous People; U Soe Nyunt, member of the SLORC Information Committee and managing director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise; U Sein Win, correspondent for KYODO and chairman of the Foreign Correspondents Club of the Union of Myanmar [Burma]; U Hla Htwe, correspondent for ANTARA and secretary of the Foreign Correspondents Club; directors general and managing directors from departments and enterprises concerned; Mr (Hans Urich Fugo), senior observer from the United Nations Fund for Narcotic Drugs Control; Mr (Dan Muroch), official from the United Nations Development Program; Mr (Angelo M. Saladido) and Mr (Bruce Gus) from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency. They arrived aboard military planes at Lasio Airport at 0900.

Maj Gen Khin Nyunt and his group were welcomed by Major General Maung Thint, deputy chairman of the Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Northeast Military Command; Colonel Aung Myint, chairman of the Northern Shan State Law and Order Restoration Council and deputy commander; senior military officials and departmental officials; officials from the Narcotic Drugs Control Squad of the Crime Division of the People's Security Bureau in Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China who are currently in Lashio; and local indigenous people. [passage omitted]

Maj Gen Khin Nyunt and his group then boarded helicopters and arrived at a heroin refinery near Nawk Kai village in Kokang region at 1030. [passage omitted] Responsible officials briefed the secretary-1 and his group at a pavillion near the heroin refinery.

First, Pheung Kya-shin, leader of Kokang nationals, explained the Kokang nationals' opposition to narcotic drugs and planned destruction of opium refineries and narcotic drugs. [passage omitted] He said he would like to speak on four points regarding narcotic drugs. The first point is the colonial British Government brought in and sold opium and opium seeds through (East India Reading) Company in China and began opium cultivation in 1842. He said opium cultivation spread to Kokang region which shares the border with Yunnan Province in 1846. When opium cultivation and trade were severely resitricted in China in 1930, opium cultivation in Kokang region grew further.

The second point is that cultivation of other crops in Kokang region, which is heavily forested and mountanous, is not successful and the local people have to depend mainly on opium for their living and they have been growing opium for many years. He said the BCP [Burma Communist Party] first arrived in Kokang Region in 1968 and it collected revenues from opium farmers, opium producers, and narcotic drug dealers to get supplies for their armed forces. He said before the arrival of the BCP there was trade in opium only in Kokang region and there was no morphine and heroin. He explained that in 1985 the BCP allowed its armed forces to engage in refining and trading heroin. He said because of the high quality of opium resin in Kokang region the opium cultivation and trade grew further.

He said the third point is that the Kokang organization ruled the Kokang Region for over 20 years together with the BCP during which there was no construction and development work. Instead, there was more destruction so that we could no longer tolerate the BCP and we rose up against the BCP in Kokang region on 11 March 1989 and drove them out of the region.

Continuing, Pheung Kya-shin explained the decision of his organization to eradicte narcotic drugs, which are not beneficial to the local people, in response to persuasion, encouragement, and instruction given by Maj Gen Khin Nyunt and untrue allegations from foreign broadcasting stations and journals which accused the Myanmar Government of abetting and engaging in opium and narcotic drugs and national leaders of involvement in opium trade. Also, he said, many local youths have been ruined by narcotic drugs abuse. He said the decision was made despite many hardships confronting the Kokang region. He said our organization will work for eradication of narcotic drugs according to the plan. In the first phase, efforts will be made to eradicate refining of heroin from our region and heroin refineries will be searched, exposed, and reported to the government and will be destroyed.

Pheung Kya-shin said the fourth point is that a six-year plan has been drawn up to eradicate opium cultivation. The first step in the program is to destroy 1,500 acres of opium cultivated by 2,800 people from 510 households in 14 villages from (?Hsi Hsi Wan), (Yan Kei Shu), (La Hpa) to (Set Ko Mine Dine) during January 1991. He said he invited the distinguished guests to come and observe at the time of destruction. He said in the second year 2,500 acres of opium cultivated by 6,200 people from 960 households in 25 villages from (Yan Me Shu), (Yan Pan), (Nauk Taing), up to (Yan Lon Kyaing) are scheduled to be destroyed. Similar work will be carried out according to the plan in remaining years.

He added that while the plan to eradicate opium cultivation is being carried out an opium substitution scheme, including livestock breeding and light industry, will be implemented. He said we have 115,000 people from families of opium growing farmers in our region and it will be necessary to assist them before the opium substitution scheme is successfully carried out. He said we expected the local people to face many difficulties in the opium eradication scheme but we have faith and rely on the government in overcoming these difficulties. He said the narcotic drugs eradication scheme will be successfully completed and implemented if assistance and advice are also received from other organizations. [passage omitted]

Next, the secretary-1 and his group viewed liquid chemicals and apparatus used in refining heroin, opium, and morphine, along with the heroin which was to be burned. Leaders of Kokang nationals, officials from the UN agencies and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, and the PRC narcotic drugs control delegation burned opium which was to be refined, morphine, and heroin while the local people destroyed three opium refineries and associated huts.

The narcotic drugs, equipment, and buildings destroyed comprise 110 kilograms in 110 packages of heroin; 147 kilograms of morphine; 97.98 kilograms of raw opium; over a ton of opium resin with 20 percent morphine content; 496 liters of raw liquid opium; 1,634 gallons of ether in 15 15-gallon plastic containers, 27 eight-gallon plastic containers and seven boxes each holding 24 bottles; 389 liters of chloroform in 19 plastic containers and 40 dozen bottles; 292 liters of acetic anhydride in four five-gallon containers and 10 bottles; 300 liters of phosphorous acid in six boxes; 2,000 kilograms of ammonia chloride contained in four five-gallon containers; 430 liters of ether in 35 gunny sacks and 250 bottles in 28 boxes; 28 sacks of sodium carbonate weighing 429 kilograms; 102 kilograms of calcium carbonate; 1,916 liters of alcohol in 10 15-gallon containers; 10 sacks of caustic soda; eight enamel basins; nine pails; four funnels; four glass flasks; two metal pans; one air pump; three weighing scales; three water sieves; three large woks; eight cut-off barrels; two motor car jacks; 14 empty containers for alcohol; and four tires.

The total value at U.S. market prices of the heroin, morphine, opium, chemicals, and refineries destroyed today under the narcotics drug eradication program of Kokang nationals is U.S. $500.12 million—$264 million for 110 kg of heroin; $235 million for 147 kg of morphine; U.S.$117,576 for 97.98 kg of opium; and U.S. $800,000 for chemicals used in refining heroin. [total and breakdown figures as received] [passage omitted]

Clash With Loimaw Group Explained Further

BK2311112390 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Wa State in Burmese 1145 GMT 22 Nov 90

["Second part" of two-part "article" by the "commentator of the Voice of the People of Wa State"]

[Text] The Loimaw military force misinterpreted our good intentions and noble desire for peace, and thought the Wa State was weak, defenseless, and easily intimidated. Because of this erroneous belief and its (?wish) to exploit the difficulties of the others to implement its territorial expansion scheme, the Loimaw force (?acted foolishly).

Accordingly, on 16 November 1989, employing five major military units, the Loimaw military force overran (Danpi) region under our 420th and 525th Divisional Region. Furthermore, following the occupation of our 502d region, [words indistinct] they used seven of their own military units, entering and attacking (Mong Kaw), Mong Hpa, Tangyan, and the other regions. Their action was aimed at (?diverting) the opium route from Loimaw to Ho-ping and Mong Pawk and directly threatening the security of Wa State.

At such a crucial time and under such repeated intimidation and inflictions we are expected to keep silent. However, it is impossible for those who know to keep silent. Our Wa State desires and longs for peace. We hope to establish peace and friendly relations on the basis of equality with groups and organizations [words indistinct] mutual assistance. This is our major wish. However, our Wa people are not unimportant and useless people who can be (?exploited) by others according to their own wishes. We have truth and correct ideology in our hands.

We have our reasons. We (?must) have the strength to defend ourselves in self-defense to uphold the fruits of the revolution of our Wa State and guarantee the survival and security of our indigenous people in our Wa State. Therefore, on 6 February this year we recaptured (Danpi) region which was subjected to aggression. At the same time, we were able to recapture some areas which were subjected to aggression. At present, many areas that have been seized from us have yet to be recovered.

We are still waging a self-defense struggle against the aggressor Loimaw force which committed aggression. The above-mentioned report is the true situation regarding the clash between us and the Loimaw force. Our Wa State needs a peaceful environment to heal the wounds of war received over many years and it is clear we have ardent aspirations for democracy, peace, and self-determination and the emergence of a peaceful Wa State.

The above events show we were merely recovering our lost territories and are not militant expansionists. Ours is a just war which is being waged in self-defense. Our units are fighting to recover our original territories which had been lost, and we are not attacking and capturing territories of other organizations. It is not difficult to discern who is right and who is wrong.

Today, we desire peace and oppose war. We will strive to obtain cooperation and assistance from other parties. However, we are not afraid of pressure from the expansionist aggressors who rely on force. Those who love and

respect us shall in turn receive love and respect from us with thanks. At the same time, we are prepared to employ all our resources to retaliate in full and equal measure against any enemy who attempts to intimidate and infringe upon us. We will deal a heavy blow to any such enemy.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Foreign Minister To Meet Baker on Gulf Crisis

BK2411034490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0213 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 24 (AFP)—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar left here Saturday for the United States to consult with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Abu Hassan told reporters before leaving with special assistant Siddiq Firdaus and Under-Secretary for America and Europe Dennis Ignatius that the meeting would take place Saturday in Los Angeles.

U.S. President Bush telephoned Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed Tuesday in Tokyo, where Dr. Mahathir was visiting to discuss the Gulf situation, he said.

"Both leaders agreed that I and the secretary of state should meet to continue consultations," Mr. Abu Hassan said. "We have not made any stand on this matter," he said, adding that the prime minister and the cabinet had directed him to consult with Mr. Baker and put forward Malaysia's views.

He said the cabinet wanted as much information as possible from Mr. Baker before deciding on Malaysia's position. The role of Arab nations "will definitely be one of the aspects that we will discuss," he added.

Mr. Baker is trying to drum up support from the U.N. Security Council for a resolution allowing the use of force to resolve the crisis that erupted with Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait. The United States wants a vote on the resolution before it passes on the presidency of the council, of which Malaysia is a non-permanent member, to Yemen at the end of November.

Local news reports Saturday quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba as saying Malaysia could not afford to be hasty in arriving at a decision. Malaysia has said earlier that the Gulf crisis should be resolved through peaceful means.

Prime Minister on 'Peaceful Means', Gulf Crisis

BK2511063090 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says Malaysia's policy on the Gulf crisis is that it should be resolved through peaceful means. He said the government had sent Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the matter. The government will make a decision after being briefed on the current situation.

The prime minister was commenting on the request by the United States to support its move to resort to military action against Iraq to end the Gulf crisis.

He also gave an assurance that the government would utilize the revenue derived from an increase in the price of oil following the Gulf crisis [words indistinct]. The government will always plan the country's budget [words indistinct] the needs of the nation and [words indistinct] the country's debts.

Water, Gas Agreements Signed With Singapore

BK2411101690 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Johor and Singapore have signed a new agreement for the supply of water to the republic. The agreement follows two years of negotiations. Johor State Secretary Datuk Abdul Rahim Ramli and Singapore Public Utility Board's Chief Executive Officer Lee Yong Siang signed the pact in Kuala Lumpur today. A guarantee agreement for the supply of water was also signed by Malaysian Acting Foreign Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak and Singapore Acting Foreign Minister S. Dhanabalan.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, his Singapore counterpart Lee Kuan Yew, and Johor Chief Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin witnessed the signing. At the ceremony, Petronas [state oil corporation] President Tan Sri Azizan Zainal Abidin and Lee Yong Siang signed another agreement for the supply of gas by the Malaysian national oil corporation to the Singapore Public Utility Board.

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his deputy Goh Chok Tong had arrived earlier for a one-day visit. The two prime ministers held a closed-door discussion for about 30 minutes before the agreement-signing ceremony.

Singapore

Prime Minister Lee Submits Resignation

BK2611114290 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Lee Kuan Yew has handed in his resignation as prime minister. His letter of resignation was submitted to President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana [Palace] this afternoon.

In the letter, Mr. Lee touched on his long-standing plan to resign as prime minister to enable Mr. Goh Chok Tong to take over. He said that as it is the first change of prime minister in 31 years, he tried to ensure a smooth transfer of authority. Mr. Lee said his work with Mr. Goh was [word indistinct]. Since 1985, Mr. Lee, he has

taken all cabinet decisions in close consultation with Mr. Goh and his team. And from last year, Mr. Goh and his team have made all cabinet decisions.

The letter also advised President Wee to call upon Mr. Goh as the person who is able to command a majority in Parliament to form a new government. Mr. Lee's resignation will take effect when the new prime minister is sworn in on Wednesday [28 November].

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Threaten Offensive if Talks Fail

BK2611103090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Nov 26 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge has threatened to launch a major offensive if the upcoming Paris conference fails to find a peaceful solution to Cambodia's 12-year-long war, Khmer Rouge sources said here on Monday.

The sources said heavily armed Khmer Rouge troops from the 519th Division were preparing to attack the provincial capital of Siem Reap, next to the famed ancient Angkor temple, if the talks break down.

They added that they had been using civilians to transport arms and ammunition to front-line positions.

News of a massive military build-up by the guerrilla group comes only days after reliable reports that they had recently received a large consignment of weapons from the Chinese Government, their regular arms supplier.

Thai troops on the border here said there had been spasmodic fighting recently in the Siem Reap area. Khmer Rouge sources claim there have been daily artillery exchanges of up to 1,600 shells and rockets between themselves and Phnom Penh troops during the past week. [passage omitted]

Premier Hun Sen Meets Military in Battambang

BK2411132290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Battambang, Cambodia, Nov 24 (AFP)—Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen told thousands of people here Saturday that resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk was blocking peace in Cambodia.

Mr. Hun Sen was in this city of 100,000 people, Cambodia's second largest, to attend an important meeting Friday of military commanders and plant Saturday a sacred tree given to his government by India.

He and his wife flew later Saturday from the frontline western province to Phnom Penh with a delegation that included Commerce and Deputy Defence Minister Nhim Vanda.

The premier, speaking to an estimated 10,000 people in front of the provincial committee headquarters, said Prince Sihanouk "is now the obstacle to a solution" of the long running civil war pitting his government against the three party resistance alliance.

He cited examples where the former Cambodian monarch had reneged on agreements with the Phnom Penh government and Prince Sihanouk's decision not to attend crucial peace talks between the warring factions in Jakarta two months ago. That meeting led September 10 to the formation of the Supreme National Council (SNC), grouping representives of all four sides and due to represent Cambodian sovereignty ahead of U.N.-run general elections. But the first meeting stalled due to differences over its composition and leadership and the issue is unresolved.

Mr. Hun Sen said the resistance had only agreed to set up the SNC after they failed to take power by force after Vietnam, which ousted a brutal Khmer Rouge regime and installed the present government in 1979, withdrew the last of its troops in September last year.

The Cambodian leader had on Friday presided over a meeting here of top military officials, including the one-armed Mr. Nhim Vanda and commanders from the other frontline western and northwestern provinces of Pursat, Beantey Meanchey, and Siem Reap, officials said.

The provinces front the border with Thailand, where the resistance is based and from which they are expected to launch offensives when the dry season starts in the next two weeks.

Details of the meeting were not available but Phnom Penh troops based at Treng, 45 kilometres (28 miles) west of here, are said to be preparing to launch an offensive by year's end to recapture the gem mining town of Pailin. Pailin, located 85 kilometres (53 miles) west of Battambang on the Thai-Cambodian border, was captured by the Khmer Rouge late last year after the Vietnamese troop withdrawal.

Officials and displaced persons along the road to Treng said the town had been turned into a military region and came under sporadic artillery attack. Eight trucks carrying about 200 soldiers were seen heading down the road towards Treng on Friday.

Distant artillery fire could be heard here late Friday and residents said security was tighter than usual, presumably due to the premier's visit. Otherwise the city was an oasis of calm and business thrived in the well-stocked central market with many goods from Thailand.

Aid workers said officials appeared very self-confident in marked contrast to June when the Khmer Rouge made a major attack on the city and are said to have come within site of the provincial committee centre, built by the French colonialists for the governor of Battambang.

Doctors in Battambang, Pursat and Beantey Meanchey said war wounded cases had fallen in the past three months. Officials here were confident the city would not fall in the dry season.

They said their forces had killed four battalion commanders and dealt a heavy blow to the Khmer Rouge 36th division—which operates from Thailand—in fighting November 6 near Moeung, west of here by the border with Pursat.

Son Sann Willing To Be Sihanouk Representative

BK2411140290 Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia 1030 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] On 22 November in Paris, Samdech Sihanouk held talks with Son Sann, prime minister of the Cambodian National Government and also had lunch with him.

After the talks, Son Sann told the press he hoped that the Supreme National Council would meet soon and called on Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh administration to abandon his intransigent attitude to advance the Cambodian peace process. Son Sann said he is willing to give up the role of vice chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council in order to work with Samdech Sihanouk in the role of the chairman's representative.

Samdech Sihanouk arrived in Paris on 21 November to pay an unofficial visit in France at the latter's invitation. Prime Minister Son Sann is also staying in Paris.

Son Sann Not Planning To Seek SNC Position

OW2311083290 Beijing XINHUA in English 0731 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, Nov 22 (XINHUA)—The prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, Son Sann, today expressed that he had no plan to seek for the position of vice-president of Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC).

Speaking to the reporters after his meeting with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia, Son Sann said that his decision was intended to "set an example" in seeking a comprehensive political solution for the country.

Son Sann also declared that he would act as Sihanouk's personal representative in the future SNC.

Son Sann said he desired the convening of the council at the earliest possible moment, and urged Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh regime to relinquish his stubborn attitude.

Sihanouk arrived here yesterday for an unofficial visit at the invitation of the French. Son Sann is also staying in Paris.

Sihanouk Proposes Informal Four-Party Meeting

OW2611110390 Beijing XINHUA in English 0655 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, November 25 (XINHUA)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia today wrote to the three parties of the Cambodian resistance movement as well as the Phnom Penh regime proposing to hold a "brotherly, informal meeting" of consultation about the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and other issues.

Sihanouk, who is now in Paris, said in his letter that the meeting could soon be held in the mansion of the former Cambodian Embassy in Paris.

The prince said the two co-chairmen of the Paris international confernece on Cambodia, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the representative of the Un Secretary General are currently holding a working meeting in Paris, adding that he appreciates the efforts made by the international community for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian issue. However, Sihanouk pointed out in the letter, such efforts will not achieve the desired result if the four parties involved in the Cambodian question can not resolve their internal disputes.

In an internview with XINHUA, Son Sann, the premier of the national government of Cambodia, said he supported the proposal and has decided to remain here for the meeting.

Son Sann also expressed his concern about the current working meeting on Cambodia, saying it is regrettable that the Cambodian parties have not reached any agreements despite the tremendous efforts made by the international community.

The premier also disclosed that Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh regime has retreated from his original stance of accepting the UN documents as the basis for settling the Cambodian conflict by his recent demands calling for limitations on the UN's powers in Cambodia, and flatly refusing to dissolve the Phnom Penh government and reduce its armed forces.

The inconsistent attitude shown by the Phnom Penh regime has brought new difficulties towards finding an early settlement to the Cambodian issue, Son Sann pointed out.

Chea Sim on Work To Restore Religious Freedom

BK2311122190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Pennh SPK November 23—Chea Sim, chairman of the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland, received in Phnom Penh Wednesday the

Venerable Chab Kheng, deputy chief of a pagoda in Philadephia, the state of Pennsylvania, on his visit to Cambodia.

Speaking to his guest, Chea Sim, who is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, expressed the Cambodian people's aspiration for a durable peace and their firm opposition to the recurrence of Pol Pot's genocidal practices in the country.

He also told the Venerabe Chab Kheng of the State of Cambodia's goodwill attitude in promoting the peace process in Cambodia in the vital interests of the people. He denounced the enemy's attempts to solve the Cambodian conflict by force. And in so doing, he said, they have invented groundless charges to divert public attention from the reality in Cambodia.

Chairman Chea Sim spoke of the Cambodian party and state's efforts in restoring the freedom of religion and the social infrastructure which was virtually destroyed by the Pol Pot genocidal clique during their rule over the country from 1975 to 1979. He said that at present Buddhism and other religious creeds are being revived in Cambodia.

For his part, the Venerable Chab Kheng expressed his willingness to help promote Buddhism in Cambodia. He wanted to restore a pagoda in Kompong Thom Province which had been ruined by polpotists. He said that during his visit to Cambodia, he could see the real situation which is different from the slanderous propaganda cooked up by the enemy. He pledged that when back to the United States he would inform the public of the reality here.

Phnom Penh, SRV Stand on UN Role Criticized

BK2611115790 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Station commentary: "Both Master and Puppets Are Alarmed and, Showing Their True Nature, Say They Refuse To Dismantle the Puppet Army"]

[Text] On 23, 24, and 25 November the co-chairmen of the Paris conference on Cambodia and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [Perm-five] met in Paris in order to continue elaborating the implementation of the Perm-five document. As a consequence, this further alarmed the Hun Sen puppets, lackeys of the Vietnamese aggressors, making them further lose countenance and expose their evil nature as they proclaimed that they were categorically opposed to any attempt at dismantling the puppet army and that they would remain armed until elections.

During this period when the international community is busy trying to find peace and promptly end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia, the Vietnamese Hanoi aggressors and the puppet Vietnamese lackeys in Phnom Penh have become extremely alarmed. As a result, they have lost their countenance and displayed their evil nature in opposing the Perm-five document, the Jakarta agreement on the creation of the Supreme National Council, and all the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly as a whole. During the Jakarta meeting, they were already badly shaken. For that reason, Vietnam and its puppets issued a memorandum rejecting the role of the United Nations and any control by the UN peacekeeping force. But the world did not pay attention to Vietnam and its puppets.

Now the world clearly sees the evil nature of Vietnam and its puppets. The world clearly sees that Vietnam and its puppets do not accept the Perm-five document to solve the Cambodian problem. It is obvious that Hanoi has hidden its aggressor forces in Cambodia. Because of that, they are afraid of the United Nations. It is Vietnam and its puppets, and no one else, who are obstructing and stalemating any solution to the Cambodian problem. Vietnam and its puppets are opposed to the Perm-five document because Vietnam wants to continue occupying Cambodian territory. They need to keep the puppet army and the puppet regime of the Vietnamese aggressors in order to enable Vietnam to maintain the presence of its forces hidden in the puppet army and puppet administration and so that Vietnam can realize its Indochinese federation policy and swallow Cambodia forever in the same way as it did to Kampuchea Kraom.

The Cambodian people want peace and independence free from the presence of Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodian territory. The Cambodian people both in Cambodia and abroad are resolutely determined to defend the Perm-five document and to join forces with the international community, the ASEAN countries, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council until the Perm-five document is completely implemented, that is, until there is a UN transitional authority and UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia to control everything, including the verification of the withdrawal of all types of Vietnam's aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Vietnam and its puppets are alarmed because they know that they cannot withstand the onslaught of the Cambodian people joining hands with the international community in pushing for the implementation of the Perm-five document and the Jakarta joint communique at this time when the world continues to advance in elaborating the implementation of the Perm-five document.

Vietnam Denounced for Blocking Peace Process

BK2611062990 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Station commentary: "The Hanoi Vietnamese Should Be Responsible for Ending Their War of Aggression in Cambodia"]

[Text] Lately, the aggressor Vietnamese bandit called Nguyen Co Thach arrogantly said the question of electing the chairman of the Supreme National Council

[SNC] is a problem among Cambodians and that the four Cambodian parties should jointly resolve it.

1. Who doesn't know the arch Hanoi bandits, invaders of Cambodia. The whole world knows the Vietnamese have been invading Cambodia for 12 years to date, with tens of thousands of Vietnamese troops currently conducting operations in western Cambodia to retake territory from the Cambodian National Resistance. Fresh Vietnamese troops, each time 300-400 or even thousands, continue to be shipped in from Vietnam to Cambodia.

2. What is the true nature of the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime? The regime is only the shadow of the Vietnamese aggressor forces and has no right whatsoever to make decisions on anything. It only shouts after the Vietnamese issue their orders. Puppets Hun Sen and Heng Samrin and other puppets are not free to make any decisions at all. The fact the SNC can neither be fully established nor have a chairman is due to the objection of the Hanoi aggressor authorities. They also oppose the election of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the SNC chairman, the blueprint of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], and the Jakarta document. The Vietnamese enemies 7 November memorandum is clear evidence that the Hanoi aggressor authorities are against a UN Transitional Authority and an overall verification in Cambodia by UN peacekeeping forces.

By all appearances, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors can never change themselves from being arch aggressor bandits of Cambodia to peace-seeking angels. The world has exposed them for 12 years and it will continue to expose and force them to accept the document of the five UNSC permanent members and the Jakarta document, which demand that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk be chosen SNC chairman and that the United Nations and the UN peacekeeping force implement an overall verification in Cambodia, including control over the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from the country.

Township Reported Attacked, Briefly Liberated

BK2611003490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 25 Nov 90

["Special Report on Attack and Liberation of Kompong Kdei, a Township of Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province"]

[Text] 1. Kompong Kdei is a township of Chikreng District in Siem Reap Province. Our national resistance forces had once completely liberated and occupied the township for one week in October 1990. The Vietnamese enemies had then sent 200 Vietnamese troops across Tonle Sap River via Phnum Kraoy to succor their comrades in Kompong Kdei Township. In the fighting, our national resistance forces had killed and wounded a great many Vietnamese enemies. In order to safeguard our troops, however, our national resistance forces had retreated to outside villages and communes located 2-4 km from the township. At that time, we had liberated over 80 per cent of villages and communes around the township.

2. Between 21 and 23 November, our national resistance forces launched offensives against the Vietnamese enemies defending Kompong Kdei Township and stationed in Lveng Russei and Kouk Thlok Communes.

After nearly two days of battle, we completely liberated the two communes. We killed 23 and wounded 12 Vietnamese soldiers posted in Kompong Kdei Township, and we destroyed some war materiel and seized a DK-82 gun, a 82-mm mortar, six B-40 rocket launchers, and nine AK rifles. We controlled Kompong Kdei Township from 0400 to 0700 on 23 November while the Vietnamese enemies did not yet have sufficient troops to retake the township.

Yugoslav President Sends Greetings to Sihanouk

BK2511041290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] On 8 November, His Excellency Borisav Jovic, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [SFRY], sent a message to Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on the occasion of Cambodia's National Day.

The message read: Samdech: On the occasion of Cambodia's National Day, on behalf of the SFRY leadership and the Yugoslav people and in my own name, I am very pleased to sincerely convey best wishes and cordial greetings to you. May the Cambodian people and Cambodia be constantly prosperous and may you have much happiness.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like to voice full support for the Cambodian people's and your efforts in seeking a just political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Samdech, please accept my highest regards.

[Dated] 8 November 1990

[Signed] Borisav Jovic, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Greets Khieu Samphan

BK2511043090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] On 9 November, His Excellency Budimir Loncar, foreign minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, conveyed a message to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Cambodian vice president in charge of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the Cambodian National Day.

The message read: Your Excellency: On the occasion of Cambodia's National Day, I would like to extend the

most cordial greetings and best wishes to you and the Cambodian people. May the Cambodian people have much eternal happiness.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like to express support for efforts to seek a just and lasting comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Your Excellency, please, accept my highest regards.

[Dated] 9 November 1990.

[Signed] Budimir Loncar, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Indonesia

Daily Questions U.S.-Singapore Military Accord

BK2211092290 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 15 Nov 90 p 5

[Editorial: "U.S.-Singapore Military Agreement"]

[Text] Before quitting his post by the end of November, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew signed a military agreement with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle on Tuesday to enable the U.S. Navy and Air Force to increase the use of military facilities in the island state. The military agreement between the two countries stipulates that the United States will not build military bases.

Based on our present analysis, there has been no explanation of political motives of Singapore officials to sign such a military agreement. However, it is obvious that the Philippines has been asking the United States to respect the country's sovereignty during a series of talks with Washington on the future of U.S. military bases in the country. Thus, the Philippine Government is expected to take advantage of the U.S. military bases for its own national interests after the U.S. lease of the military bases in the Philippines expires in September 1991. This means that the U.S. military forces will be withdrawn from the country sooner or later.

It seems that Singapore is worried over a possible "vacuum" of U.S. military protection in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly Southeast Asia in view of global political developments in which the two superpowers have lately become closer and friendlier toward each other. Judging from speeches and remarks by Singapore military experts, that country is still worried over possible expansionist and aggressive policies by certain neighbors. Thus, in anticipation of the possibility, the tiny island state always calls for the maintenance of U.S military forces in Southeast Asia because it realizes how small its defense forces are compared to those of neighboring countries.

In short, the island state is not confident of its ability to defend itself solely on the basis of its national strength. The country's national strength is solely economic. In fact, the country's prosperity is above the average prosperity of the peoples of the other Southeast Asian countries. But its national resilience and strength is very fragile and weak because the present Singapore citizens in fact belong to their ancestral lands in other countries. Accordingly, nationalism among the Singapore citizens is almost non-existent.

It is normal for the Singapore leaders to continue to need foreign "security guards" to protect the trading country. The tiny island state is in fact nothing but a shopping center or commercial kiosks. Nevertheless, is Singapore's "invitation" for the foreign security guards not against the spirit of good neighborliness to create of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality [ZOPFAN]? Is it also not against the spirit of ASEAN to which Singapore belongs under which ASEAN is striving to build a Southeast Asia free from nuclear weapons?

Would it not be against common sense if certain countries in Southeast Asia continue to think of maintaining a military equilibrium in the region during the current post-cold war era? Why is national resilience not solely based on the development of the people's strength?

Whether we like it or not, sooner or later, the American people will think rationally and realistically. Why should they defend Singapore's security? Who will attack the tiny island state?

Do certain Singapore officials continue to have a political assumption that a military threat exists around the island state? Which countries should they be suspicious of and vigilant against? Vietnam? Indonesia?

Whether we like it or not, such political reasoning will defintely be in the mind of the officialdom of the neighboring countries because other ASEAN countries believe that the previous military threat has virtually disappeared following a change in the global policies of the two superpowers.

In fact, the present irritant for a consensus on implementing the ZOPFAN concept in Asia, and in Southeast Asia in particular is the presence of foreign forces in certain countries in Southeast Asia in particular and in Asia in general. Whereas the Soviet Union is unilaterally withdrawing its military forces from Asia, why must Washington insist on maintaining its forces here?

Who is really the most interested in the continued presence of U.S. military forces in Southeast Asia? The United States or Southeast Asian countries themselves?

Based on this reasoning, it is clear to point at countries which have pretended to maintain peace and stability in Southeast Asia by means which are against common sense. How can peace be maintained in a region through a foreign military presence, let alone by allowing other countries to use military bases or facilities? Is such reasoning not against common sense at all? The theory of equilibrium that was used as an excuse during the cold war era is no longer relevant.

Laos

Fifth Plenary SPA Session Opens in Vientiane

BK2411072090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The 5th plenary session of the 2d Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was opened this morning under the chairmanship of Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and SPA chairman.

Attending the meeting as honor guests were members and alternate members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, members of the party Central Committee, members of the party Central Committee Secretariat, ministers and deputy ministers, SPA members, and members of the diplomatic corps in Laos.

During the 6-day session, delegates to the meeting will discuss and endorse the contents of the drafts of the Labor Law, the Family Law, the Lao Nationality Law, the Insurance Law, the Business Accountancy Law, the (?Extracontractual) Obligations Law, and the Civil Procedure Law. Each law has its own importance and validity in managing the state and society.

As chairman of the session, Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan delivered a speech officially opening the meeting.

Nouhak Delivers Opening Address

BK2511143190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Speech by Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of Second Supreme People's Assembly and member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, delivered at the opening of the fifth plenary session of the assembly in Vientiane on 24 November—recorded]

[Text] The fifth plenary session of our Second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] is opened today in a vigorious atmosphere as the entire party, army, and people are making preparations for the celebration of the 15th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my salutation to SPA members and express my appreciation for their participation in this session. On behalf of the SPA, I extend my salutation and welcome to Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and acting president of the republic and extend my salutation to all comrade members of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the party Central Committee, comrades vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers, comrades ministers, comrades chairmen of state committees, and representatives of mass organizations in Vientiane Municipality.

Comrades, your participation in today's session is considered a great honor and encouragement for this meeting. I would like to express my gratitude to the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations for having spared their valuable time to attend this session and my thanks to representatives of news agencies, mass media, both Lao and foreign journalists who are covering this event. [applause]

Respected and distinguished guests and beloved comrades, the year 1990 is coming to its end. Looking back at what has been done in the past period of nearly one year, we are pleased with the achievements scored by our people in implementing our party's and state's restructuring plans and policies. For example, this year's harvest is proudly successful. Our people have actively exerted their efforts to overcome obtacles and difficulties that stemmed from floods, droughts, shortage of materials, equipment, technologies, and financial shortcomings to continue socioeconomic development in our country and, at the same time, heightened their sense of vigilance, thus defeating all subversive schemes of the enemies in a timely manner and effectively maintaining political peace and social order.

In foreign relations, our state has made efforts in many aspects in face of the dynamic international environment to continue to improve relations with all friendly countries. We have registered initial achievements in implementing the open-door policy to increase economic relations and cooperation with foreign countries. Subsequently, our country's prestige and influence in the international arena has become more prominent with every passing day.

This year, our people celebrate four major historic events, namely the 35th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], 120th birthday anniversary of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, 100th birthday anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh and [words indistinct] we will celebrate the 15th founding anniversary of the LPDR. Through the celebrations of such great events, our people always uphold their sense of patriotism and love for the new regime, further enhance national unity and solidarity, join in implementing the tasks of national defense and construction, and strive to improve both material and spiritual aspects of livelihood of the multiethnic people.

In 1990, our SPA concentrated on passing more laws. Since the beginning of this year, we have promulgated a number of laws which were endorsed by the fifth SPA ordinary session in late 1989 and the fourth SPA extraordinary plenary session in the middle of this year. Those laws are the Criminal Law, Procedures for Criminal Cases, People's Court Law, People's Judiciary Institute Law, Ownership of Property Law, Inheritance Law, Contractual Obligations Law, Court Fee Law, and Establishment of the State Bank Law. Through enforcement of the promulgated laws, we have established the people's courts and public prosecution offices in all provinces and Vientiane Municipality. The newly established judicial bodies have been strictly enforcing the new laws in handling cases.

The promulgation of the said laws have satisfied cadres and people and proved to them that the state is beginning to administer society with regulations and laws so as to guarantee their rights to mastership. In particular, in early May, the committee in charge of drafting the constitution and laws completed drafting the constitution of the LPDR. As instructed by the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat, we have presented the said draft constitution to people for their consideration and discussion. To write a constitution is a difficult and new task for us; however, cadres, soldiers, policemen, and people have expressed their opinions and views on the draft constitution, an indication that their sense of patriotism is tightly linked with the popular democratic system. Based on the rational recommendations put forth by the people [words indistinct], the committee in charge of drafting the constitution and laws is improving the draft law to submit to the upcoming SPA ordinary plenary session for consideration and endorsement so as to cope with the growing socioeconomic requirements and aspiration of the people.

During this session, we will jointly carry out our duty of delilberating and endorsing a number of draft laws, namely the laws on labor, family, Lao nationality, insurances, enterprise accounting, noncontractual obligations, and civil cases proceeding. Each draft law has its own roles and usefulness for the management of state and society.

1. Labor Law

The labor law deals with relations between laborers, workers, and salary earners including wage earners and employers who own factories or are supervisors of state agencies, state-private enterprises, social organizations, and private sector undertakings. Laborers or salary earners are workers and state employees who work in departments, factories, [words indistinct], trade enterprises, companies, hospitals, and schools of the state and state-private joint ventures, social organizations, and private sector undertakings. The definition of laborers, salary earners, and wage earners does not cover freelance laborers, laborers who engage in family business, and members of cooperatives because they are not associated with any entrepreneur or employer. The labor law to be promulgated is, first of all, aimed at creating and maintaining good labor relations, hence ensuring the smooth proceeding of economic production and labor-consuming undertakings. The labor law will also create a legal foundation for the orderly and highly efficienct and effective labor management for the benefit of both employers and laborers. The labor law guarantees social justice and payment of salaries or wages on the basis of the outcome and efficiency of their labor in accordance with the social (welfare) policy, humanitarian policy, labor protection policy, and policy of paying attention to the use of children's and women's labor, at the same time guaranteeing social welfare and other benefits. The labor law clearly defines the rights, interest, obligations, and mutual responsibility between the two parties—the entrepreneurs or employers and laborers. The specification of relations between the two parties creates favorable conditions for laborers to work in harmony with entrepreneurs and employers, help avoid labor conflict, and provides conveniences for internal and foreign investors to invest in economic production and services in our country. Our labor law reflects the policy of guaranteeing the interest of laborers and employers and the right of the entrepreneurs in managing and making use of labor force in accordance with their management mechanism, improves working conditions, and guarantees payment of salaries to laborers in an appropriate manner and fair settlement of labor conflict through participation of the entrepreneurs, laborers, and state labor protection organizations.

2. The Family Law

The family is (?the pillar) of society. It is a social unit which is closely related to each citizen. When he comes of age, every citizen must have conditions to build his own family for his own happiness. When his family becomes happy and secure, the citizen will be able to conveniently carry out his administrative and socioeconomic activities. (?The rearing and teaching of children) and the building of the younger generation all begin from the family. The policy of providing equal rights to men and women, the protection of the interests of mothers and children, and the dividing of marital property between a married couple when they are divorced are all practiced within the family. Moreover, the inheriting of property stipulated in the [Inheritance] Law must be subject to the relations within the family of the deceased.

Because of the importance of the family, which has existed long before this law takes effect, the relations within the family must (?be in line with) the traditions and customs prevailing in each region and among each ethnic group in our country. These traditions and customs [words indistinct]. In order to translate our fine traditions and customs into practice and to build the progressive relations within the family to conform to the new life of [words indistinct], our state must have a Family Law.

The Family Law clearly spells out the progressive principles (?to regulate the relationship) between the husband and wife. For example, a man and a woman have the legitimate right to get married if they love each other. No one has the right to force them not to do so or to obstruct them in any way. The Family Law stipulates the principles on [words indistinct] and the relationship with the family. That is, the family must have only one husband and one wife. The husband and the wife must enjoy equal rights. Children must have the equal rights and obligations within a family. We must adopt a correct position toward our traditions and customs. The Family Law recognizes all fine traditions and customs. As for backward traditions and customs which still exist in certain tribal regions, we have a long-term policy to educate our people to understand the backwardness and

adverse nature of such traditions and customs so that they will be convinced to wipe them out gradually.

3. The Nationality Law

The draft constitution stipulates that a Lao citizen is a person who legally holds Lao nationality. The nationality issue is linked to all citizens and their rights and obligations. This is a fundamental issue. All Lao citizens who were born and live in their own country must (?want to know) under what conditions they can retain their Lao nationality and what fundamental rights and obligations they are entitled to enjoy as stipulated in the Constitution and other laws. They also want to know under what conditions they will be deprived of the status of being Lao citizens, meaning to lose their Lao nationality. As for the state, with regard to (?its direction) in managing the country, it must firmly grasp its management objectives and [words indistinct] all citizens in order to ensure the rights and interests for them. At the same time, the state must call on them to fulfill their obligations toward the state and society.

The Nationality Law is also useful in encouraging Lao people living abroad to turn to and maintain links with their country. Because of the above-mentioned reasons, it is necessary that we must enact the Nationality Law. The Nationality Law defines the various conditions under which one can adopt or abandon Lao nationality. Certain basic conditions are as follows:

The state recognizes that all Lao citizens possess Lao nationality. The state cannot allow Lao citizens to hold many nationalities. This is because a citizen cannot (?simultaneously live) in Laos and another country nor can he abide by both the Lao constitution and laws and those of a foreign state. The state gives (?protection) to the status of Lao nationality to Lao nationals. [Passage indistinct]

4. Insurance Law

[Passage indistinct] As the country's economic foundation is expanding, it is natural that people can come across accidents in their daily life or when they travel that can result injuries or even death. The damages on economic production or livelihood of the people might derive from the irresponsibility on part of the people concerned or from objective causes. To create confidence for the people in pursuing economic production and livelihood, however, it is necessary to have an insurance system. In time of normalcy, the people must pay insurance fees. In time of disaster, they will receive compensation for damages and be financially able to continue their trade and economic production. The insurance business is quite new to our country. All financially developed countries have been enforcing insurance laws for a long time. While we are shifting to a commodity-oriented economy, an insurance law is necessary for the people who are engaging in business activities as well as for foreign investors who intend to do business in our country. In drafting an insurance law, we must realize that the insurance business is one of the elements that can serve economic production and livelihood of the people. The expansion rate of insurance business must correspond to that of the country's productivity. Since our country's economic growth is still low, the insurance business therefore can cover only some major areas. At this stage, we have merely set three types of insurance business as follows: insurance against losses and damage to property, [words indistinct], and life insurance. Any kind of insurance business requires a big investment and must be registered so as to prevent negative effects such as cheating and money embezzlement. For this reason, insurance business must be strictly supervised and inspected by the state to defend the interest of insurance purchasers.

5. Enterprise Accounting Law

Business production activities under the commodity-oriented economy must be recorded in the accounting book. The record must show production tools, immovable and moveable assets, capital fund, productivity, [words indistinct], prices of finished products, quantities of goods sold or left in stock, revenue, and profit. With good records, factory owners in all economic sectors can keep themselves well abreast of the economic production situation and production efficiency and rightly assess the future of economic production that will enable them to plan the expansion of their business. Meanwhile, the state must see to it that factories are able to continue their production and know their production costs, other expenditures, and revenues as well as profit in order to find ways to help them in time of necessity and, at the same time, to instruct them to fulfill tax obligations according to the laws and constitution. The Enterprise Accounting Law to be enforced with all factories and enterprises is designed to serve the said objectives and create a legal foundation for a unified accounting system nationwide, which will enable the state to understand the economic production situation and find ways to boost the efficiency of factories and enterprises and create conditions for the state to effectively inspect their movements. By so doing, the state is able to have all factories and enterprises fulfill their obligations to the country.

6. Non-contractual Obligations Law

Non-contractual obligations means the responsibility of a person to pay compensation for any damage he has caused to other people. In our daily life, we might cause damage to other people, for example, in terms of reputation, body, and property. Once the damage has been done, the affected person must be compensated. Property owners must pay compensation for damage caused by their property. For example, they are obliged to pay compensation for damages caused by their drivers or assistants on duty despite the fact that they themselves have not caused such damage. Owners of unattended animals or other material belongings such as buildings and trees must also pay compensation for damage caused by their property. Moreover, non-contractual obligations also mean the sense of mutual responsibility between

employers and employees. These responsibilities must be stipulated in the Non-contractual Obligations Law, which will provide grounds for fair and rational settlment of the conflict of this nature for the people.

7. Civil Procedure Law

In previous sessions, we endorsed three civil laws namely the Ownership of Property Law, Contractual Obligations Law, and Inheritance Law. During this session, we will deliberate two civil laws—the Labor Law and Non-contractual Obligations Law—in addition to the draft Labor Law, Family Law, Nationality Law, Insurances Law, and Enterprise Accounting Law. It is necessary for us to first deliberate and endorse the draft Civil Procedure Law during this session for the public prosecution organizations and people's courts to act in uniformity in arbitrating civil cases and ensure justice for all parties.

Distinguished guests and beloved comrades, the establishment of the legal system is an objective necessity for the administration of the country and expansion of democratic rights in society. We must, however, acknowledge that this task is a time-consuming undertaking. We cannot act in haste as we want to. The effectiveness of the laws depends on how the laws conform with social relations, the socioeconomic expansion rate, cultural development, and mentality of the people in the country. For this reason, it is our policy to build up a legal system step by step. We must promulgate laws according to their priority. The laws to be deliberated and endorsed during this session are deemed necessary for our country by the committee in charge of drafting the constitution and laws. Therefore, I proposed that all SPA members study the contents of each law. I believe that all SPA members are fully aware of the significance of the tasks of restructuring the political system and management of state and social affairs and thus will enhance their sense of responsibility toward the people as they did in the past sessions. The deliberation and unanimous endorsement of the said draft laws is tantamount to a tribute to the upcoming 15th founding anniversary of the LPDR.

Finally, I wish this session success. I hereby declare the official opening of the fifth regular plenary session of our second SPA. Thank you [Applause].

Officials See Delays in Presenting Constitution

BK2611022990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 90 p A3

[By Athawibun Sisuworanan]

[Text] Vientiane— The Lao government's plan to proclaim the first constitution in its 15 years in power may have to be postponed until early next year because of internal conflicts, diplomats here said over the weekend.

The promulgation of the constitution was originally planned for Dec 2, the Lao national day, as a "gift to the Lao people" and to conform with external demands that Vientiane's administration of the country have a legal foundation. But diplomats said internal conflicts within the leadership in Vientiane, highlighted by the arrest in October of three senior officials advocating multiparty democracy, has seriously delayed the constitution-drafting process.

Thongsouk Saisangkhi, vice minister for science, and Latsami Khamphoui, vice minister for agriculture, were arrested last month along with another senior official on charges of political subversion.

Reports said the group accused senior communist leaders of preventing the generally more progressive younger generation from holding key party and government positions. "The arrests made everybody here afraid of talking, and the leadership seems to be confused about what degree of political freedom will be granted under the constitution," said a Western diplomat.

Before the purge, there had been reports of political unrest in Xieng Khouang province in which about 40 people were said to have been killed and wounded. "The drafting process has just been put off because of confusion within the leadership," the diplomat said.

A Thai diplomat, however, said that the Vientiane government still went ahead with drafting other civil codes, including laws governing labour protection and land ownership. "As far as I know, the land ownership code will be finalized next week," the Thai diplomat said.

Laos has been pressured by Western countries to issue a constitution, which would serve as the basis for the country's civil codes, saying that the absence of a legal system has made it difficult to conduct business in the country. Senior Lao officials acknowledged the delays in promulgation of the constitution but denied that there was a linkage between the delay and the purge.

They said the actual reason behind the postponement was that the leadership in Vientiane was preoccupied with organizing the national day celebrations. Activities marking national day are being planned for Nov 15 to Dec 15 and this year's celebration is expected to be the largest since the government took power in December 1975. Other Lao officials denied rumours that there was a concerted crackdown on dissidents in the bureaucracy and the communist party. Diplomats also said that there were no signs of a wider purge.

Lao-Japanese Bus Service Project Handed Over

BK2411121490 Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 24 (KPL)—The second phase of the Japan-Laos bus service improvement project implemented since January 1990 was completed in mid-November 1990 and was handed over here yesterday to the Lao side.

The improvement project at its second phase costing 582 million yen (Japanese currency) included the construction of a bus station and a bus maintenance workshop. The bus station occupies an area of 7,240 square metres, behind the "morning market", while the bus maintenance workshop is situated on a 6,062 square metres plot of land at km 3 on the road to Thadeua. In addition to the Japanese contribution, the project also received 23.1 million kip from Vientiane Prefectural Administration. Ending in mid-November 1989, the first phase of the project acquired 425 million yen worth of 50 small and medium buses from the Japanese Government.

The project is put under the management of Vientiane Prefectural Administration.

At the hand-over ceremony taken part by ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials of the Lao and Japanese sides, Mayor of Vientiane Prefecture Mr. Sisavat Keobounphan and the Japanese ambassador to Laos Mr. Shigemi Ando acclaimed the cooperation and assistance between Laos and Japan.

The mayor and the Japanese ambassador also expressed sincere hope that through this cooperation project the friendship ties between Lao and Japanese peoples would develop and the technical experience in bus service management would be transferred to Lao workers.

On behalf of Vientiane administration and residents, the mayor of Vientiane Prefecture expressed deep gratitude to the Japanese Government for the assistance and support to Lao national construction. He also hoped for the future constant development of the economic and cultural cooperation between Laos and Japan.

Japan Presents Aid to Sericulture Center

BK2311123990 Vientiane KPL in English 0965 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—A hand-over ceremony of gratis aid worth 10.9 million yen (Japanese currency) from the government of Japan to the Mulberry Growing and Sericulture Center was organised here on Nov. 21, reports "VIENTIANE MAI" newspaper today.

The gratis aid includes a lorry, a pick-up, two motorcycles, and a machine.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets PRC Minister

BK2611041390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] According to a Beijing radio report, on 22 November Qian Qichen, PRC minister of foreign affairs, met with Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and delegation which was visiting the PRC for the second round of talks with the Chinese on the Sino-Lao border issue.

On this occasion, Qian Qichen said: Considering the spirit of friendship and cooperation to be significant, it is hoped that the Sino-Lao border will be turned into one of peace and friendship. He added that future cooperation between China and Laos will be improved with each passing day. Qian Qichen also expressed conviction that the border problem between the two countries will be settled on the basis of friendship at an early date.

Phongsavat Boupha, Lao ambassador to China, was also present at the meeting.

The Chinese Government delegation led Qi Huaiyuan, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and the Lao Government delegation led by Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy foreign affairs minister, held talks on the Sino-Lao border issue from 17-23 November. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of profound friendship and in frankness. The heads of the two delegations also signed the minutes of the talks on this occasion.

Foreign Minister Receives Finnish Ambassador

BK2311130190 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—Foreign Minister Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, who is also vice chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, received here on Nov 21 the new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Finland to Laos Mr. Esko Lipponen. The ambassador, whose chancellery is in Hanoi, Vietnam, presented his credentials to the Lao acting president on Nov 20.

The Lao foreign minister was bidden farewell here on Nov. 22 by the representative of Red Cross in Indochina Mr. Christin Brunner, who has his residency in Hanoi.

Chinese Women's Union Delegation Visits Laos

BK2311150590 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—In response to the invitation of the Lao Women's Union Central Committee, a delegation of the Chinese Women's Union led by its vice president Mrs. Yan Ying, who is also a member in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Board, arrived here on Nov 21 for a cordial visit to Laos.

The Chinese delegation on Nov 22 paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Onchan Thammavong, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, member of the People's Supreme Assembly, and LWU [Lao Women's Union] president. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the improved friendship relations between the women of Laos and China.

This is the first cordial visit to Laos by Chinese women following the visit to China in mid-1989 by a Lao Women's Union's delegation led by Mrs. Onchan Thammavong.

The LWU president expressed hope that the visit would create good understanding and draw the two countries' women closer.

Finance Ministry Delegation Visits SRV

BK2611102390 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 26 (KPL)—A Lao delegation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance led by its deputy minister, Sisavat Sisan, has visited Vietnam where he has discussed with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Van Trong, bilateral matters of payment and financial cooperation.

In addition, the Lao delegation visited Phan Van Khia, president of [the] State Planning Committee, also president of the Subcommission for Lao-Vietnamese Cooperation, and Hoang Quy, minister of finance.

Hmong Families Relocated Under Joint Project

BK2611101990 Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 26 (KPL)—40 families of Hmong people out of some 100 families in the mountainous Houa Meuang and Viangsai Districts, Houa Phan Province, have recently moved down to low land in the area of Bouamphat and Bouamvang in Viangthong district to adopt fixed farming on 500 ha [hectare] as a new way of life.

The relocation was made following the encouragement of the provincial administration. The settlers' decision is also prompted by the road cutting linking Hiam and Son area in Viangthong District which is in the framework of the Lao-American Integrated Development Project started since 1989 and to be completed at the beginning of 1991.

15-Year Progress in Communications Reviewed

BK2411073990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Feature: "Work in the Communications, Transport, Postal, and Construction Sector in the Past 15 Years"]

[Summary] According to Himmakon Manotham, deputy minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, after the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] in 1975, implementing the party and state's policy in improving communications work, healing the wounds of war, and normalizing the people's life and fulfilling the state's guideline of using communications work as a sharp tool of the national economy, in the past 15 years under the government's leadership and with international assistance the LPDR Government and people have persisted in building and reopening numerous strategic routes. We have managed to thwart attempts to block our access to the outside world in the west by building transport routes to the sea in the east; repairing old roads and bridges; building ferry landings, airfields, warehouses, oil depots, and factories; setting up organizations to be in charge of land, air, and waterway transportation services; repairing and rebuilding shelters and houses for the people, cadres, and workers; and improving the telecommunications and postal system to facilitate our contacts within the country and with the outside world.

"The actual achievements scored in these fields are as follows:

"In the communications field, 2,115 km of new roads have been built. Of these, 440 kms are for national highways, 1,263 kms for provincial roads, and 912 kms for local routes. In addition, 1,117 kms of old roads have also been restored and resurfaced, including 781 kms of National Highway Nos. 9, 8, 7, 1-A, and 13. Altogether, 1,929 kms of roads have been asphalted. In addition, 15 large bridges of strategic importance have been built, as well as several hundred small bridges. Many oil depots, goods warehouses, and repair workshops have been built at border crossing points. Five airfields have been repaired.

"In the transport field, at the center, we have set up three state land cargo transport units with each unit having cargo transport and passenger services of its own. The Vientiane Municipality has established its own bus service within the metropolitan area. Sixteen ferry boats have been built and a central waterway transport company has been set up. Many private land and waterway cargo transport and passenger companies have also been allowed to be set up to provide transport services to the public in accordance with the party and state's policy. Compared to 1975, the volume of cargo transported over land has increased by five-fold and via waterway transport means by three-fold, the number of passengers using land transport means has increased six-fold, and the number of passenger buses has increased four-fold. At the same time, air transport services have also increased ten-fold. In particular, Laos has set up its own sea transport company—an unprecedented event in the history of our nation.

"Much expansion has also been carried out in the postal and telecommunications field. We now operate two ground satellite relay stations, 129 post offices, 113 telegram offices, and 68 telephone booths for the nationwide telecommunications network, thus increasing public services between four- and five-fold compared to 1975.

"Even though we lack capital, materials, and labor, we have guided the people to rebuild their homes destroyed or damaged during the war, thus rehabilitating many towns and communities, especially in Sam Neua, Xieng Khouang, Meuang Khao, Oudomsai, Phong Saly, Lak Sao, Kham Keut, Meuang Phin, Saravane, and other areas. Many old towns have also been given a facelift, such as Vientiane, Savannakhet, and other provincial

capitals. We have also set up many socioeconomic settlements. Many new towns have been established complete with water supply systems.

"In the cadre training field, in the p t 15 years we have trained several thousand more workers and cadres, thereby increasing our workforce by ten-fold to adequately manage the communications, transport, postal, and construction work throughout the country."

Road Construction, Improvement Work Reported

BK2311122990 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—To ensure better goods distribution and public transportation serving the national socioeconomic development, the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction has given priority to the land communication development.

Based on the premise that the state and people take part in the work, many achievements have been made in road construction, maintenance, and expansion.

The roads improved and constructed during 15 years include strategic Road 13, Road 9, Road 8, roads accessible to the coast of Vietnam, in addition to interprovince, district, and village roads and roads within towns and municipalities.

Also built are roads serving the national defence and security in the provinces of Sayaboury, Vientiane, Champassak, and Bolikhamsai.

Besides, similar attention has been given to improvement and construction of river ports, river navigation, river banks protection in Vientiane, and opening of various airports throughout the country.

During the second five-year plan (1985-1990), surveys have been made on 2,525 kilometres of roads, 821 bridges with a total length of 10,815 metres, 4 river transport ports, 2 ferry ports, and Mekong River map. More important is the survey of Mekong bridges No. 1 in Vientiane and No. 2 in Savannakhet. Among the main bridges completed are Sedone (Pakse), Sebanhiang (Savannakhet) Nam Phao (Khammouane), and Nape, in addition to 10 bridges on Road 13 and Road 8 whereas river ports completed include those in Pakbeng, Sayaboury, Luang Prabang, and at Km 4 Vientiane Municipality.

In addition, the construction design has been made on 1,880 kilometres of roads, four bridges, and oil pipeline through Vietnam.

Despite the achievements, the development of communication in the country is still slow and faces with considerable difficulties. Still many localities have no road access. So in the third five-year plan (1980-1995), the development of the work remains very essential and urgent.

Report on Vientiane's Wood Extraction, Export

BK2311130490 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 23 (KPL)—Vientiane Province in the third trimester of 1990 exported 1.8 million U.S. dollars worth of logs, sawn timber, and rattan. The export comprises 9,456 cubic metres of logs, and 47,170 strings of rattan.

In the past three months, the volume of wood extraction for local consumption and export amounted to 22,684 cubic metres.

Philippines

Manila To Seek 'Quality' Bases' Compensation

HK2311031790 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 23 Nov 90 p 12

[By Jose G. Ebor, reporter]

[Text] Considering "the changing parameters of the American presence," Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday said the Philippines would be seeking compensation "more in terms of quality rather than quantity."

Conceding that the economic aspects of a RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. relationship under a Philippine-American Cooperation Treaty [PACT] "will come up soon," the foreign secretary said he could not give a ball-park estimate for the compensation figure "until we come up with the territorial limits of the American presence and the character of that presence."

While the Philippines is pushing for a five- to seven-year time frame phasedown-phasein period, the Americans want it to take place over 10 to 12 years. "We'll probably agree on 7-11," Mr Manglapus quipped.

The present thinking is that American access to Clark on a commercial basis will begin by next September but the commercial arrangement for Subic will be "after the phasedown-phasein period," Mr Manglapus said. Thus, compensation per se, would only be applicable to the U.S. presence in Subic.

"I don't see how you can ask the Americans to pay more for less area," another bases neogtiator remarked.

The foreign secretary said the "qualitative" items he was seeking could be incorporated in the economic and non-security provisions of the PACT. "We're looking at a debt-reduction program, at additional procurement (by the U.S. military of local goods), increased trade access and the character of their participation in the commercialization and development of Clark in keeping with our conversion plans," Mr Manglapus said. These would be difficult to put a dollar figure on, he indicated.

But, considering the commercial arrangement at Clark, "our expectation is that we take possession of the runways by September ... and the Americans start paying right away ... for the operations of their Military Airlift Command [MAC]," Mr Manglapus said. While a body empowered to contract out services to potential users of Clark has still to be legislated into being, a ranking DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] official believed that "an arrangement, in the meantime, by which the U.S. could pay direct to the Philippine Government for the MAC operations at Clark would not be difficult to effect."

While noting that continued U.S. Air Force training activities, the MAC flights, the presence of the special operations squadron and U.S. Navy use of Subic would "involve the stationing of uniformed personnel of the United States," Mr Manglapus felt these "could be viewed as less than a combat presence." He hinted it would be something the Senate could live with in a new agreement, pointing to "the Singapore arrangement which permits the positioning of their military personnel" as a new "regional phenomenon."

"The new treaty will have to take into consideration the military presence in connection to these commercial arrangements," Mr Manglapus said.

The foreign secretary made note of the fact that U.S. Rep. Stephen Solarz and U.S. Pacific Forces commander Admiral Huntington Hardisty, recent visitors here, are "both now in Brunei ... I would imagine in line with Brunei's offer to host a U.S. presence." Mr Manglapus said that Rep Solarz, a staunch Aquino supporter, "reflects U.S. thinking regarding this area." During his visit, Mr Solarz had downplayed his desire to retain access to the military facilities here.

Queried on Mr. Solarz' observations regarding a "softening" Philippine Senate stand on the bases, Mr Manglapus said that could be attributed to the Senators having an "open mind" and that they were cognizant of the "changing conditions of the times."

Aviation Treaty With USSR Under Negotiation

HK2211034390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Nov 90 p 7

[By staff member Mel Elona]

[Text] The Philippines and the Soviet Union are negotiating an aviation treaty that would grant their flag carriers landing and overfly rights in each other's territories, an official of the Civil Aeronautics Board [CAB] said yesterday.

CAB board member Leon Tiansay said the talks arose from the request of the Philippine Air Lines [PAL] that it be granted the right to fly over Soviet territory for its European service.

"The USSR was ready to grant PAL temporary overfly rights as part of the process of negotiating an air agreement between the two countries," Tiansay said.

But he also admitted problems in the ongoing talks, particularly in the Soviet Union's demand for "fifth traffic rights" for its flag carrier, Aeroflot. This would mean, he said, allowing Aeroflot to pick up passengers at the home country and unload and load passengers at second and third foreign countries.

Tiansay said that if these rights were granted, Aeroflot, for instance, would be allowed to participate in the local air traffic between the Philippines and Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Taiwan, Japan and Australia "without any reciprocal values in exchange."

He also said the USSR was demanding exemptions from payment of taxes and other fees for its proposed air service in the Philippines.

If the talks succeed, the Soviet Union would be the third socialist country, after Yugoslavia and Vietnam, to have an air treaty with the Philippines.

Czechoslovakia is also seeking a similar agreement along with the Gulf states of Oman, Qatar, Bahairan and the United Arab Emirates, Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Arturo Corona, who is also CAB chairman, said.

ADB Okays Quake Loan; Plans To Grant More

HK2311070190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Nov 90 p 13

[By Ernesto Tolentino]

[Text] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to continue extending more soft loans and grants to the Philippines in the next four years because of the economic setback the country suffered from the Middle East crisis.

In a recent assessment, the ADB concluded that the crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August adversely affected the Philippine economy that it would take some time for it to stage a recovery and only after receiving external assistance to cover its financing gap.

The assessment was made before Typhoon Ruping wrought extensive damage to crops and property and infrastructure last week.

The Asian Development Bank yesterday approved a $100 million interest-free loan to the Philippines to help the country rebuild infrastructure destroyed by a major earthquake that killed nearly 1,700 people in July.

The funds will be used to reconstruct roads, bridges, flood control facilities, water supply systems and school buildings damaged by the quake.

The loan will form 81 percent of an estimated $123 million needed for an three-year rehabilitation project of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The bank had earlier appropriated $100,000 technical assistance grant for a study to assess costs of reconstruction.

The July 16 earthquake, which measured 7.7 on the Richter scale, devastated wide areas of the main island of Luzon, causing massive landslides on mountain highways that isolated remote towns and villages for weeks.

As a middle-income economy, the Philippines' access to concessionary funds of the bank has been limited for years. In fact, of the more than $800 million in ADB loans earmarked for the country this year, only a minor portion was made up of concessional assistance.

But the surge in crude prices triggered by the Gulf crisis has had a debilitating impact on the Philippine economy, prompting the bank to consider the country's eligibility to gain access to the Asian Development Fund (ADF) window for the years 1991-to-1994.

As a result alone of the upswing in crude oil prices stemming from the Persian Gulf conflict, the ADB said the Philippines could easily incur a balance of payments (BOP) deficit of nearly $1 billion this year.

The bank noted that should crude oil prices rise by an average $10 to $26 per barrel this year from last year's $16/barrel average, the country's BOP shortfall could easily touch the $800 million range.

ADB's calculation was based on the country's annual oil imports of roughly 75 million barrel, plus about $650-million of petroleum based products.

Congress To Oppose New IMF Tax Impositions

HK2611043390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Nov 90 p 1

[By Ric M. Baliao]

[Text] Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. said over the weekend Congress will oppose the imposition of new taxes which he claimed are being demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) as a condition for the grant of additional loans to shore up the country's economy.

Mitra said he has met members of the IMF-WB team now in town to review the country's economic performance in connection with the consideration of the government's application for more loans, intended among other things, to lower the budgetary deficit.

He said he was given the impression that unless Congress enacted tax measures recommended by local economic managers, the review team would be constrained to oppose the grant of new monies.

The Speaker said during the meeting, which was attended by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, he opposed the demand and argued in favor of a financial package adopted by the national leaders earlier whereby the government would strive to achieve conditions sought by the IMF-WB by reducing public expenditures and increasing revenues through intensified tax collection.

Mitra said the plan did not seem to impress the IMF-WB team, with the members expressing doubts on the capacity of the government to effectively implement belt-tightening and intensified revenue-collection measures.

He reported that when he argued that the government did not have to take dictation from its creditors because the Filipinos are in a better position to know what is good for them, the team members replied that while they appreciated this, their job is to assess the hard realities of the country's economic performance in relation to the need for more funds.

And one such reality, Mitra was told, is that the government and people have to absorb new taxes as a "bitter pill" to prime the economy for the additional financial assistance.

Mitra served notice that the House of Representatives under his leadership will insist on its position that no new taxses should be imposed, and that instead, the government should redouble tax-collection efforts.

The speaker predicted more conflict ahead between the executive and legislative branches of government on the issue of new taxes, when the IMF-WB insist on their demand and the Philippine economic managers press Congress for the enactment of new revenue measures. "There will be a bigger problem because we (in Congress) will resist," he said.

Mitra reiterated his and the House's position on new taxes during an open forum following his speech at the launching ceremonies for the Coalition for All-Filipino Youth (CALL) at the Trinity College gymnasium in Quezon City yesterday. Headed by Rep. Al Ignatius G. Lopez (Youth Sector) as chairman and Albert Lim as president, CALL is an umbrella organization of Youth groups and movements nationwide.

IMF Talks Said 'Progressing Significantly'

HK2611043790 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By reporter Anthony L. Cuaycong]

[Text] Ongoing talks with a visiting review team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been progressing significantly, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao yesterday said.

Reporting to President Aquino on the weekly broadcast program "Magtanong sa Pangulo ["Ask the President"]," Mr. Estanislao said the IMF is "in total agreement" with Government as regards components of the Philippine economic stabilization program.

"They like our policies. As a matter of fact, they endorsed our policies. I cannot think of any policy that we have adopted and enunciated in the past year that

they are against. So there is total agreement with respect to that," Mr. Estanislao said.

However, the Finance chief noted that the IMF has some reservations about Government's ability to attain its targets. "They agree with us on the magnitude of the stabilization effort that we have to introduce—the increase in the required reserves, cutting the budget and the inflation rate—there is total agreement with respect to that. The only point that separates us now is their understanding of how our domestic institutions function."

Mr. Estanislao said the IMF panel had to be briefed on why the Philippines' timetable seems sluggish. "I had to explain to them that we have an independent Supreme Court, very independent, and an equally independent Congress. And we will have to work with these institutions.

"For example, in cutting the consolidated public sector deficit, there can be no ifs and buts about it. Our democracy and our Constitution dictate that we have to work very closely with Congress, and this does take time," Mr. Estanislao said.

Apparently, the points of contention remain Congress's reluctance to institute refinements in the value-added tax system and the income tax rates for business establishments, both considered crucial to Government's attainment of its targetted P [Philippine pesos] 55-billion reduction in next year's budget deficit.

Arguing, however, that members of the Legislative "are very reasonable and...willing to cooperate with us on what is required by the Philippines to be back on the path of stabilization," Mr. Estanislao expressed confidence that "differences...in speed, timing and sequencing of our actions" will be resolved. "But as I told them, we have to operate within the democratic institutions and the processes that are in place in the Philippines," Mr. Estanislao said. "And while this may take a bit longer, this is the safer way to go. Because the agreements would be firmer and stronger."

Fruit

In this connection, Mr. Estanislao revealed that policies already in place as formulated in the stabilization program have started to bear fruit. "For the first three weeks of October, our revenues went ahead of program, and although our expenditures were slightly above target, when you put the two together, we have a historic first," Mr. Estanislao said.

"One is, during the first three weeks of October, we had a surplus. Ordinarily, we are always talking about a deficit. Second, this surplus is above target. Ordinarily, we have difficulty getting to the target," Mr. Estanislao explained.

Presidential Opinion Poll Results Surveyed

HK2611033590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronilla: "Poll Reveals a Political Phenomenon"]

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the ABS-CBN Research on Nov. 13-14 confirms indications that Mrs. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Sen. Joseph Estrada are running ahead in popularity as possible presidential candidates in 1992.

Before we go further, let me say that I am discussing this survey not because I wish to create a bandwagon effect for the political ambitions of these two people, let alone express a preference for either or them. Rather, I want to recognize a political phenomenon that requires closer examination. Previous poll surveys, especially those conducted by the Ateneo de Manila University Public Opinon survey and by the Social Weather Stations, also showed Mrs. Santiago and Senator Estrada topping the ratings.

The ABS-CBN poll conducted interviews of 300 respondents in Metro Manila. They were randomly chosen, but the poll was guided by a quota for each socioeconomic class segment (AB, C and DE), taking into account actual population distribution. According to this group, survey results have a margin of error of plus or minus 10% and a confidence level of 90%. Respondents were asked to name those they would want to run for President, and to choose between two possible presidential candidates. They were shown 36 possible combinations of two candidates from a list of 10. The number of wins for each of the 10 were then tabulated and ranked accordingly.

In both measures, the survey revealed that Santiago and Estrada were the most popular presidential contenders. Of the 300 respondents, 48.7% would like Santiago to run for President, and 31.7% for Estrada. They were ahead of the rest of the pack with comfortable margin.

When paired with other possible candidates, Santiago and Estrada were the most popular. She beat all candidates pitted against her. Estrada best everyone except Defensor. He was, however, weak among the ABs, which preferred President Aquino over him. Final rankings based on total number of wins were:

(1) Santiago; (2) Estrada; (3) Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos; (4) Senate President Jovito Salonga; (5) President Aquino; (60 Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile; (7) Vice President Salvador Laurel; (8) Speaker Ramon Miltra; (9) Imelda Marcos; and (10) Eduardo Cojuangco.

The survey showed that Santiago was strong among the upper socioeconomic class voters, with 56.9% of those belonging to the AB and C economic class wanting her to run for President. By contrast, only 41% of the lower classes wanted her to run. Also strong with the upper classes were Salonga with 17.3% among ABCs as against

11.5% among the DEs and Mitra, with 11.1% among ABCs, compared with 4.48% among Des.

On the other hand, Estrada showed strength among the lower classes, with 38.4% among the DEs wanting him to run for President against 24.3%, among the ABCs. Santiago showed strength among voters aged 18-29 years old, with 54.1% wanting her to run. In this segment, she led her rivals with a wide margin.

The survey showed that a candidate's popularity went hand in hand with the public's satisfaction with his or her past and present performance. Santiago had a highest satisfaction level, with 74.6% and Estrada with 67%.

President Aquino's endorsement may not count for much. According to the survey, only 19.32% said they would vote for a presidential candidate endorsed by Mrs. Aquino while 27% said they would vote for another candidate.

Of the 300 respondents asked whom they would want to run for president from a list of 30, these were their first 10 preferences: Santiago, 48.7%; Estrada, 31.7%; Enrile, 19.3%; Ramos, 18.7%; Mrs. Aquino, 18%; Salonga, 17%; Laurel, 9.7% Mitra, 7.7%; Mrs. Imelda Marcos, 6.4%; Eduardo Cojuangco, 5.7%.

These results will be analyzed tomorrow.

Estrada To Offer Amnesty If Elected President

HK2611045390 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 26 Nov 90 pp 1, 7

[By Chandler Ramas]

[Text] Angeles City—Senator Joseph Estrada has promised to grant amnesty for all if he wins in the 1992 presidential polls.

"I am for genuine reconciliation and I will forgive all the enemies of the government," Estrada told reporters in Central Luzon yesterday.

In his speech to the members of the Central Luzon Media Association [CLMA] here, Estrada said he would forgive all the members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA], the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM].

"This is the right step towards national reconciliation," stressed the actor-elected-senator. Although Estrada did not directly say he wishes the Liberal Party to announce him as its official bet, many think he will run in 1992.

"I assure you I will no longer run as a senator," said Estrada in reaction to reporters' pressure on him to announce his plan for 1992.

Granting he becomes the president, he promised to work for national reconciliation and general amnesty. "Our plans for progress will fail if the government has many enemies, so I will first resolve the division of the Filipinos," Estrada added.

Arresting people guilty of tax fraud would be one of his priorities, after the deadline set for his amnesty program expired. He restressed the dismantling of the U.S. military bases in the country. "I am calling on our panel not to agree to a new treaty," he said. He quoted Section 25, Article 18 of the Constitution which bans the retention of the foreign bases after September 1991. "Any move favoring the retention of the bases is not only a violation of the Constitution but also anti-Filipino," the senator said.

In his speech, Estrada cited the reasons why he is against the American bases. He said that aside from violating the Philippines' sovereignty, the Philippines is also a target of nuclear attack. Estrada allayed fears of economic downfall in the event the American installations are removed. "There are alternatives which would save the 68,500 workers who will be displaced. I also learned that the Americans only contribute 1.9 percent to our gross domestic product." Estrada added.

Flores Relieves 26 Officers in Cagayan De Oro

HK2611044390 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 26 Nov 90 p 3

[By Dario Agnote, NEWSDAY reporter]

[Text] Major General Guillermo Flores, commanding general of the Philippine Army, has ordered the relief of 26 Army officers, mostly senior officers, of the 4th Infantry Division (ID) based in Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City.

The 26 officers include two colonels, 10 lieutenant colonels, 10 majors, three captains and one lieutenant. The names of the relieved officers who are holding sensitive posts from the brigade down to the company levels, were withheld, pending Flores's official announcement.

Sources at the Army's general headquarters in Fort Bonifacio said the relief of the 26 will take effect Dec. 1. The sources added that the void left by them will immediately be filled with the appointment of 27 Army officers—two colonels, five lt. colonels, one major and 19 captains. The 26 officers who were relieved will be deployed or reassigned in other Army units across the country.

The relief order came only days after Flores announced the disbandment of the 53rd Infantry Battalion (IB) of the 4th ID which was deeply involved in the three-day mutiny in northern Mindanao early last month.

Major Agapito Cardino, the executive officer of the 53rd IB which the Davide commission described in its report as a "coup-prone" Army unit, led the 12 other Army officers and their men who defected to the side of

mutinous forces led by Colonel Alexander Noble during the short-lived October military uprising.

Noble's some 250 armed men occupied two major Army camps in Butuan City as well as the 4th ID headquarters in camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro City without even firing a single shot. The mutiny, which claimed four lives and damaged a Sikorsky helicopter gunship and a Tora-Tora assault plane, among other Army equipment, ended on the third day with the unconditional surrender of Noble.

The relief of the 26 officers of the 4th ID and the disbandment of the 53rd IB, added Flores, signalled the start of the Army's restructuring program aimed at developing a "lean, compact and efficient" Army command. He moreover, said the move was also in line with AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff General Renato S. de Villa's order to trim down the 160,000-strong AFP.

The 53rd IB figured prominently in the December 1989 and August 28, 1987 coup attempts against the Aquino government, which has been rocked by at least seven similar attempts by the right-wing forces, since it came to power.

Observers believe the major shake-up of the 4th ID command and the whole military command in northern Mindanao was triggered by the military officers and men's failure to thwart the Noble mutiny. The military high command, a Camp Aguinaldo official said, was "very frustrated" by the Army and Philippine Constabulary's performance during the Noble uprising in Mindanao.

Already, Major General Cesar Nazareno, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief, has relieved two PC officers in connection with the Noble mutiny. In the October incident, Noble and his men were able to travel from Butuan City to Cagayan de Oro City undetected by 11 military detachments in the area.

Immediately after the Noble mutiny, De Villa relieved the 4th ID's commanding general, Brig. General Miguel Sol, and replaced him with Brig. General Quintin Alcudia.

Flores maintained that the move to disband some battalions in the area and the relief of the 26 Army officers were in line with the "leveling of battalions in the Army divisions." The idea, Flores said, is "to have nine battalions per division," which he said is the "usual number" of battalions under a division. Flores said more battalions will be "unfilled" in the next few weeks.

The 53rd IB is the second Army unit to be disbanded this year. A few months after the aborted December 1989 coup, then Army chief Major General Manuel Cacanando also dissolved the elite First Scout Ranger Regiment (FSRR). Like the 53rd IB, the FSRR was also involved in the December 1989 coup which came close to toppling the Aquino government

The Philippine Army is at the forefront in the fight against the communist insurgency which has been plaguing the country for more than 21 years now.

Military Says More NPA's Deployed in Manila

HK2311031990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 90 p 8

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The number of communist guerrillas in Metro Manila has increased by at least 74%, or from 920 regulars in October last year to about 1,600 at the end of October this year, a senior military official said.

During a command conference at Camp Aguinaldo last week, armed forces Deputy Chief of Staff for intelligence Brig. Gen. Alfredo Filler said the rise in the number of rebels in the metropolis is an indication of the communists' shift from a protracted Maoist armed revolution to a fast track Sandinista "politico-military" strategy.

The shift implies that the rebels would carry out more violent activities in Metro Manila.

Eiller, however, said total NPA [New People's Army] membership had decreased by 4%, or from 18,640 regulars to 17,910 this year.

Membership in areas outside Metro Manila, except in central Mindanao and central Visayas, has also been going down at the rate of 0.6% to 1.3%.

The massing of rebels in Metro Manila, Cebu and Cotabato was "understandable," Filler said, adding that communist guerrillas had been stepping up their offensive and political mass organizing in the urban centers to "create an insurrectional atmosphere that would hasten the collapse of government."

The rebel buildup was also geared to score propaganda victories, to strengthen financial resources and to "test the politico-military strategy."

Filler said the recent Welgang Bayan [Nationwide Strike] was an example of rebel activity under the new strategy.

The expansion of rebel forces in Cotabato, on the other hand, was in line with the reshuffling of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National United Front Commission (NUFC).

A Constabulary intelligence officer told the CHRONICLE that communist leaders had decided to transfer the "Moro Office," which was under the National Democratic Front of the NUFC, to the Mindanao Commission (Kommid) to come up with plans to oppose the newly created Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Armm).

The shifting of forces and other resources from rural areas had also depleted guerrilla fighters in the rebel fronts in northern Luzon and in western and northern Mindanao.

Filler said the rebels had been forced to "dissolve the central front of the Ilocos gion party committee for lack of personnel."

General De Villa Orders Tightened Security

HK2211100590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tight security has been enforced in all oil depots and other government installations in compliance with an order by Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa. The chief of staff issued the order after an attempt to bomb the Shell Oil Depot in Pandacan was foiled. Apart from this, De Villa also ordered that government officials be provided with security guards following the bombing of Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon's house. He clarified that authorities have not yet been able to pinpoint the group responsible for the bombing attempt on the Shell depot or on the the house of Secretary Drilon. Here is part of General De Villa's statement on the issue:

[Begin De Villa recording in English] The arsenal do not produce explosives. Our military explosives are produced abroad and this is coming by way of our FMS [expansion unknown] system. So, what you have seen there are really dynamite sticks and blasting cords or detonating cords. These are available commercially, really, for industrial use, for mining use. Now, what we would like to do is trace the source of those dynamite sticks. [end recording]

Fighting Causes Evacuation From Maguindanao

HK2211043990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Nov 90 p 8

[By correspondent Ray Nitura]

[Text] At least 15,000 people evacuated Tuesday from the municipalities of Ampatuan and Sultan Sabarongis in Maguindanao after heavy fighting between a band of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels and cultist groups, the provincial health office reported yesterday.

The number is expected to increase after soldiers of the 38th Infantry Battalion, based in Dukay, Esperanza town in Sultan Kudarat, shelled the area to flush out the rebels.

The battalion commander, a certain Col. Jacoba, had claimed that the military had cleared the area of civilians before the military assault. But a provincial health official disputed this, saying many civilians were still in their houses when the bombardment began. He added he was in Ampatuan with four other medical workers taking care of those who were unable to leave during the encounter between the MILF and the cultist groups when the cannon firings started.

Maguindanao governor Norodim Matalam asked the military to stop its operation against the rebels to allow negotiations to begin.

The evacuees have sought refuge in the municipalities health centers. Health officers have reported the outbreak of diseases in these centers, aside from lack of food for the evacuees.

The encounter was triggered by a land dispute between Christian cultists and the MILF led by Kumander [commander] Adan. The conflict over ownership of lands in Ampatuan and Sultan Sabarongis had caused intermittent clashes between the two groups.

NDF Condemns Military Operation in Quezon

HK2611050390 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 26 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] The spokesman for the National Democratic Front [NDF] in Southern Quezon condemned yesterday Monday's military operation in Lopez, Quezon which resulted in the evacuation of over 20 families and the killing of many civilians.

In a statement received by DIYARYO, NDF Spokesman Comrade Beltran said two Huey helicopters, using machineguns, strafed barangays Santa Elena, Mabini; Ilayang Ilog, San Pedro; and San Rafael in Lopez. Six bombs were allegedly fired from a howitzer by the Advanced Command Post, 2d Division, Philippine Navy on the same day.

Two farmers were missing; one was arrested while one man who is still unidentified was killed in the operation.

According to the report, a certain Domingo Jarino of barangay Mabini was arrested and was allegedly mauled by the soldiers.

"The military burned the houses and farms of Pedro Libiaga and Marcelino Ardoc del Mundo of barangay Santa Elena. They also stole chickens belonging to the Palima family," Beltran said.

He stressed that the intensifying militarization of Southern Quezon is aimed at expediting the implementation of Germany's Bondoc Peninsula Integrated Development Project, but added no explanation.

Meanwhile, in a letter to Major Felix Cabreros, 42d Infantry Batallion commanding officer, Lopez Mayor Joel Arago requested the transfer of Jarino from Camp Pajarillo to Barangay Bebito, Lopez because Jarino is suffering from a peptic ulcer which requires frequent consultation with his doctor.

Arago also requested an investigation into reports that soldiers belonging to Bravo Company of the same batallion took the residents' properties in Barangay Ilayang Ilog.

Rebel Offensives Described as 'Very Dangerous'

HK2311030790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By Noli Cabantug]

[Excerpts] Armed Forces vice chief of staff Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said ultrarightist rebels, in a renewed urban offensive, have targeted at least 62 public and private firms in Metro Manila for attack or sabotage. [passage omitted]

Describing the renewed destabilization drive as "very dangerous," the general singled out the RAM-KSP [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People] among rebel factions as capable of doing the most harm. "Unless checked, this terrorism would have serious repercussions on our economic and political stability," he said.

He said the RAM-KSP appeared to link its urban offensives to the 1992 elections. "The (the RAM-KSP) would produce chaos, discontent and anarchy so that this kind of situation would prod the people to look for alternative leaders in the 1992 polls," Biazon said, adding that "it is in fact trying to discredit the incumbent government officials who are expected to run in the elections."

Biazon, who is also chief of the National Capital Regional Defense Command [NCRDC], admitted that the government forces were not invulnerable to rebel offensives. "We are not immune to these attacks. It is improbable for us to protect everything. It is difficult for us to find out whom or what they will hit next. I am just apprehensive that these attacks would inflict harm on many people," he said.

While the NCRDC has enough men and assets to face rebels in a battle situation, he pointed out that frontally checking terrorist actions is a different matter.

In a meeting with Metro police superintendents yesterday, Capcom [Capital Regional Command] chief Gen. Mariano Filart ordered increased security for firms and installations believed to be targeted for rebel attack.

Among measures for immediate implementation are increased police visibility around the vital installations, more checkpoints and full alert for all police and security forces in the metropolis.

Military Kills 24 NPA Rebels in Samar Clashes

HK2311070390 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 23 Nov 90 pp 1, 7

[By Chris Manansala and Dan Ambrocio]

[Text] About 24 New People's Army [NPA] rebels were killed in separate encounters in Samar. No casualties were reported on the military side.

According to a report reaching Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, a one-hour fight occurred when elements of the Philippine Navy's 19th Infantry Batallion led by 1st Lieutenant Danilo Billon encountered about 60 NPA rebels in barangay Cagdao-o, Silvino, Lobos, Northern Samar. Four of the NPAs were killed while three civilians were wounded. The military recovered an ICOM VHF radio, subversive documents, and ammunition for high-powered guns.

Meanwhile, about 20 NPA were killed in an encounter with the elements of the 34th Infantry Batallion headed by a Captain Casimina in barangay Dagungan, Western Samar.

In related news, a suspected member of the Dimas Platoon of the NPA's regional guerilla unit was captured by soldiers of the 803d brigade in barangay Unio, Sta. Rita, Western Samar. Arrested was Conrado Egagamo. Recovered from him was a M-16 rifle and ammunition.

In Bulacan, the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police [PC-INP] raided a suspected propaganda center of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]-NPA in barangay Bagna, Malolos yesterday morning.

According to Captain Francisco Villaroman, the 171st PC company commander, his men raided the NPA office at about 1100 [0300 GMT] in the morning. The office is not far from the NPA headquarters, which was also raided recently. It was learned that the rebels sensed the attack, which was why none were arrested. The military, however, confiscated about 10 sacks of subversive documents, including red banners for various CPP-NPA organization fronts, huge streamers, posters, leaflets, and magazines describing the oppression and struggle of farmers and fishermen. Also seized were the official flag of Bangkilas, a fishermen organization in Bulacan; streamers bearing criticisms against a special task force created by Governor Roberto Pagdanganan, who reportedly makes living difficult for Bulacan fishermen.

Military Arrests Rebel Sailor Over Bombings

HK2311100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Nov 90

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] The military arrested a rebel sailor suspected of being one of the most trusted members of the rebel forces in carrying out their bombing operations in a safehouse in Pasig, Metro Manila, yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command, Colonel Mario Tresteses, identified the sailor as Seaman First Class Fernando Gino-o, alias Lord, 28 years old, single, and resident of Pigkawayan, North Cotabato. Gino-o was pinned down by a joint force from the counterintelligence commands at about 1100 [0300 GMT] yesterday inside his sister's house in Sto. Tomas Street, Santolan, Riverside, Pasig. It was learned that Gino-o was previously assigned to the dismantled 1st Composite Infantry Batallion. In 1988, he was transferred to the Armed Forces Finance Center headed by another rebel officer, Captain Dante Pimentel of the Philippine Army. In the tactical interrogation, it

was learned that Gino-o was involved in the bombing operations by the ultra-rightist groups comprised of small two- to six-man groups of former military men. Among the bombing operations in which he was involved were the planting of a time bomb in a red Toyota Corolla car parked at the exit driveway of the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel on 13 July 1990; the explosion at the Central Fermentation and Industrial Corporation owned by Domingo Lee in Apalit, Pampanga, on 3 July 1990; the bombing of the Board of Investment office at the corner of Buendia and Paseo de Roxas on 14 August 1990; the bombing at the Republic Flour Mills in Manggahan, Pasig, on 27 August 1990. Gino-o also revealed that the ultra-rightist bombing operations are headed by ex-Colonel Billy Bibit, the RAM-KSP [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People] operations officer, and Major Abraham Purugganan. The following is a statement by Colonel Mario Tresteses:

[Begin recording in English] The capture of Mr Gino-o has revealed the following information to us now. First, that the ultra-rightist rebel groups bombing operations were orchestrated by ex-Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit, who is the operations officer of the RAM-KSP-YOU [Young Officers Union], and Major Abraham Purugganan. The bombings, according to him, were conducted by small groups of two to six in number, all of whom are ex-soldiers of the RAM-KSP-YOU who were taught how to handle bombs by Lieutenant Emil Ong and a certain Captain Soriano. That the rebel group members received an allowance in envelopes from ex-Lieutenant Colonel Bibit, through his father retired Colonel Apaceno Bibit Sr., and his brothers Tim and Nonong Bibit. [end recording]

Thailand

Chatchai Receives PRC Supreme Court President

BK2411090290 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 24 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Ren Jianxin, president of the Supreme People's Court of China, accompanied by vice president of the Supreme Court Adunki Kittiyakon, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan at Government House at 1500 yesterday.

Prime Minister Chatchai gave a warm welcome to Ren Jianxin. The prime minister stressed the close political, economic, and social relations between the two countries. He also hoped that Ren Jianxin's visit to Thailand would enhance Thai-Chinese cooperation in the judicial field, which will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ren Jianxin told Prime Minister Chatchai that he had exchanged views on judicial cooperation with the president of the Supreme Court of Thailand and the justice minister during his visit to Thailand. He believed that these would enhance judicial cooperation between the two nations and further strengthen bilateral relations. Ren Jianxin also spoke highly of Prime Minister Chatchai's contributions to the promotion of Sino-Thai relations and the settlement of regional conflicts.

Burmese Request on 'Dissidents' Rejected

BK2111010990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Thailand yesterday rejected Burma's request to extradite fugitive Burmese dissidents to Rangoon. The proposal was made at a meeting of the Local Thai-Burmese Border Coordinating Committee at Task Force 34 headquarters here.

Lt-Col Kyaw Myint, who led the Burmese delegation, said that despite an extradition agreement between local authorities, Thailand had sent to Burma only illegal immigrants, never anti-Rangoon dissidents.

Thai delegation leader Col Chalo Thongsala said that Burmese found to have committed crimes in Thailand were mostly illegal immigrants and it was difficult for the Thai authorities to know who were dissidents. For humanitarian reasons, Thailand cannot extradite Burmese seeking political asylum, Col Chalo said. He said the matter should be considered by policy-making officials of the two countries. The meeting agreed to forward the matter to the regional committee of the two sides.

Col Chalo also denied accusations by Burma that Thailand had allowed Karen rebels to use its territory to stage subversive activities against Burma. Myawadi authorities recently sent a letter accusing Thailand of allowing Karen National Union [KNU] guerrillas to cross into Burma from Thai territory north of Mae Sot District, and fire seven 60-mm mortar shells at a school in Myawadi.

The letter also said that early this month KNU fighters crossed into Thailand after planting mines at Maw Pokay camp opposite Tha Song Yang District and detonated them by remote control, killing three Burmese soldiers.

Concerning complaints by Thai logging companies that they could not cut down trees despite having logging rights from the Burmese Government, Lt-Col Kyaw Myint said some of the companies had begun operations after complying with conditions agreed upon by Thai logging firms and the Burmese government at Moulmein on September 25. Companies which have problems can contact the authorities in Myawadi, he said.

Leader of Anti-Rangoon Alliance Gives Up Post

BK2411014090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p A3

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] After two years of active anti-Rangoon political activities, a key exiled Burmese leader recently gave up a

vital post in Burma's main armed dissident umbrella group of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) among others.

Tin Maung Win tendered his resignation as general secretary of the Alliance and member of the DAB's five-member presidium and central executive committee during the Nov 12-15 meeting at the DAB headquarters at Manerplaw on the Thai-Burmese border. His resignation went into effect despite initial objections from the Alliance's top brass including its chairman Gen Bo Mya, leader of the Karen National Union, which wanted him to take a long leve of absence.

The DAB was established in November 1988 following the pro-democracy uprising in Burma which ended in September 1988 with a bloody coup d'etat by the country's military generals. The Alliance is made up of 21 different ethnic groups in that country including dissident Burmese students, monks and exiled expatriates.

An informed border source said Tin Maung Win, who chairs the US-based Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma, cited a personal reason for his resignation. His wife, Khin Myo Aye, who resides in Washington along with her mother and two daughters, is said to be in poor health, according to the source.

The source said Dr Tu Ja, a senior official and spokesman of the Kachin Independence Organization, has been appointed acting DAB general secretary pending an official election at the next meeting of the central executive committee scheduled for next February.

Tin Maung Win, according to the source, first submitted his resignation in early September but his request was turned down by Bo Mya.

In an interview yesterday, Tin Maung Win confirmed the resignation report, citing two main reasons for his move, and denied that ideological clashes among DAB members influenced his decision.

Apart form his 50-year-old wife's heart problem, Tin Maung Win said: "While the Alliance is considering forming a provisional government, international recognition and understanding of the DAB's position and policy is crucial". Thus the resignation will permit him time and the chance to tour some Asian and Western nations to explain to them DAB's objectives and plan on the provisional government.

The 52-year-old Burmese leader said he will leave Thailand next month to act as DAB special envoy to promote the Alliance's cause in various world forums expecially the US Congress and the United Nations.

On the establishment of a provisional government, Tin Maung Win said he supports and encourages the DAB to go ahead with the initiative, but warned against any move, which can pose a danger to the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a landslide victory in the May general election in Burma. He did not make clear if the NLD, which is paralyzed following the junta's nation-wide arrests of nearly all its top members, should be invited to participate in the planned provisional government but said: "You will hear good news very soon."

A student activist in the 60s, Tin Maung win said he welcomes the Swedish Government's initiative in introducing a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee on human rights, social and humanitarian affairs demanding that the regime of Gen Saw Maung in Rangoon release all political prisoners. It also expressed concern that the junta has not transferred power to the elected people's representatives. The UN committee will vote on the resolution on Nov 28 and the General Assembly will vote on Dec 18.

"The Swedish Government's (UN resolution) initiative can reinforce my duties and activiites during the trip," he said. The resolution, which normally has no binding effect, is consponsored by 20 countries—the 12-nation European Community, along with Australia, Austria, Canada, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

Despite his departure from the DAB, Tin Maung Win said he will continue with his political activities until the present regime is ousted, and that his Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB) will maintain its DAB membership.

Ye Kyaw Thu, CRDB secretary general, will remain here to serve as both an adviser of the DAB presidium and member of the 105-member DAB central committee, said Tin Maung Win, who retains his DAB post of central committee member.

Talking about his possible replacement, Tin Maung Win said he strongly supports student leader Moe Thi Zun, who is chairman of the exiled All Burma Students' Democratic Front to the powerful position. But the official appointment depends on the outcome of the voting in the next DAB meeting. Moe Thi Zun, 27, a physics graduate of Rangoon University, headed the second largest political party in Burma, Democratic Party for the New Society, before he fled in April 1989 to the Thai-Burmese border.

A son of U Win, former minister of home and religious affairs during the last U Nu government, Tin Maung Win was a student activist when he led the July 7 uprising in 1962 agianst the Ne Win regime. He was jailed on several occasions by the military governnment before going underground in 1969 to join U Nu's Parliamentary Democracy Party in exile. His father, who accompanied him and his family on the trek to Thailand died of a heart attack near Kyaikthiyo Pagoda in the Mon State.

Along with U Nu, Tin Maung Win and six other Burmese rebel leaders were asked to leave Thailand in February 1976 following the movement's failure: He went into exile in the United States and has been living there until the Burmese uprising of 1988.

Possibility of Indochina Joining ASEAN Noted

BK2411040390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Nov 90 p 4

[Article by Christopher E. Goscha: "Could Indochina Join ASEAN?"]

[Text] As negotiations reopened at the beginning of this year to solve the Cambodian problem, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan raised the possibility in public that the states of Indochina could join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) sometime after the Cambodian crisis is solved.

Most observers have, until recently, considered this unlikely or at least unprecedented. However, the notion of Indochina as part of a Southeast Asian regional organisation is not as extraordinary as it may first appear. With the Cold War now ended and Washington's new line on Cambodia having given fresh impetus to negotiations on Cambodia, Chatchai's "post-Cambodia" vision of Indochina as a part of ASEAN is a scenario well worth considering.

While Chatchai has surprised many Asian and Western diplomats with his new initiatives toward Indochina since January 1989, his Indochina is rooted in both current economic and political realities and precedents set by Thai lealders as far back as the immediate post WWII period. In fact, in late 1945 it was Chatchai's father, Field Marshal Phin Chunhawan, who met with Viet Minh military officials in Thailand to arrange a transfer of arms to Ho Chi Minh's army to use against the French in battlefields in Indochina.

But in his inaugural speech in August 1988 Chatchai initiated a key change in Thai policy when he announced his desire to turn that same "battlefield into a marketplace." To this end, in January 1989 Bangkok broke with ASEAN, moving away from its former front-line, isolationist policy towards communist Indochina, to a more conciliatory, economic-oriented policy.

Chatchai signalled this change by dispatching a high-level delegation to Hanoi in January last year to discuss the Cambodian problem and bilateral economic relations. Later in the month, Chatchai made the unprecedented move of inviting the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK), Hun Sen, to Bangkok for the talks on the Cambodian problem and mutual economic interests. In April, Chatchai hosted the Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach at a trade conference in Bangkok discussing, among other things, the need to coordinate economic development between Thailand and Indochina with Chatchai urging an end to the "two Southeast Asias," one capitalist and one communist.

Then, in early 1990, Chatchai made the unprecedented suggestion that Indochina be admitted to ASEAN following a solution to the Cambodian problem. Clearly, the prospect of a negotiated settlement of the Cambodian conflict earlier this year prepared the way for this proposal. But there is more to it than that. One factor which has played a part of Bangkok's bolder Indochina policy has been the growing perception that Thailand is soon to join the club of NICs (Newly Industralising Country) in Asia. This recent phenomenon has given added prestige to Thailand and would have encouraged Bangkok's decision to take the lead on Indochina since 1989.

Similarly, along with "NIC-hood" also came an increased demand for natural resources, another fact explaining this new policy. To support Thailand's rapidly growing economy, access to timber, coal, oil, fish and other natural resources must be ensured. With Thailand's own resources under severe pressure, Bangkok is looking to the resource potential of its next-door neighbours in Indochina (as in Burma). Considering Thailand's geographical proximity to Indochina, incorporation of Indochina into ASEAN would attend to these resource requirements nicely.

Besides domestic needs, external pressures could also forge closer ties between ASEAN and Indochina. Prompting such action would be the European Community's move toward the creation of a common market by 1992 and the possibility of a unified Europe. In an interview in May 1989, Chatchai said ASEAN "must remain united because of (the new economic threat from) the EEC." This threat has been further accentuated by the economic ramifications for Southeast Asia flowing from the enormous political changes which have occurred in Eastern Europe since late 1989. Already the EC has signed treaties of trade and cooperation with the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. These agreements will only facilitate greater EC investment in and cooperation with Eastern Europe.

With a reunified Germany now a member of the EC, ASEAN states cannot afford to rule out the possibility of a wider and increasingly unified European Community. Considering the economic ramifications of a unified Europe and the emergence of other trading blocs in the world, the admission of Indochina to ASEAN seems a reasonable response.

Moreover, ASEAN runs the risk that changes in Eastern Europe during the last year may see the EC concentrate its aid and investment in Eastern Europe at the expense of Southeast Asia. The commissioner of the EC for North-South relations, Abel Matutes, tried to dispel this fear on a recent trip to Thailand and the Philippines.

However, the fact remains that in 1990 EC aid to all of Asia is expected to be 250 million ECUs [European currency units], 50 million less than the emergency aid allotted to Poland and Hungary for the same year. In addition, if the EC admits East European economies, there is a possibility that the number of countries competing with ASEAN to export similar products to European markets will increase. In this connection, East European products could possibly replace ASEAN's existing exports to Europe. Spain, a country which produces goods similar to its Southeast Asian

counterparts, has already tried to cut the EC's aid to Asia (FEER [FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW], February 19, 1990).

For communist Indochina, Europe is also a problem. With the Cold War now over, an ideologically bound communist organisation such as Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) has become an anachronism. As a member, Hanoi must give serious thought to realigning its economic relationships, regardless of ideology. The need for a readjustment is all the more necessary given the cuts in economic and military aid to Indochina by the Eastern Bloc.

With communist solidarity a thing of the past, East Bloc countries have turned to the matter of rebuilding their own ravished economies. A Western diplomat put the cost of decreased Soviet aid to Vietnam at US$500 million a year, while a Vietnamese economist estimated that Moscow may cut supplies of fuel, cement and steel by 20 percent in 1990. With a US$16.1 billion debt to Moscow, Hanoi will either face cuts in these supplies or else pay higher, nonsubsidised prices for such Soviet imports.

Even Poland and Hungary, the two countries the EC has targetted for emergency aid in 1990, are ironically seeking to scale-back their large purchases of Vietnamese goods. Hanoi has already expressed interest in joining ASEAN.

Thus, changes such as a breakdown of Comecon, cuts in East Bloc aid to Indochina, and the threat of a unified Europe, may provide ASEAN and Indochina with non-ideological grounds for greater economic cooperation. Whether or not the communist parties of Indochina will be marginalised as they have been in Eastern Europe will be of less importance in terms of the immediate relationship between ASEAN and Indochina.

Bangkok's need for the natural resources it has destroyed in its own country and Indochinese communist states' need for nearby trading partners to help develop their impoverished economies will override any concerns with ideology. Thailand should consider that its new economic status and growth could be more influential weapons in communist Indochina than Hanoi's ideological solidarity with Laos and Cambodia.

Ironically, Vietnam's "special relationship" with Laos and Cambodia may well be replaced by an economic reorientation of these two states toward Thailand. Indeed, some Vietnamese economists are already referring to Thailand as Asia's "newest tiger" and one institute in Hanoi has expanded its research on Thai and ASEAN economic development models and foreign investment laws.

Although economic motives and "NIC-hood" may explain Chatchai's bolder Indochina policy, a discussion of this subject would not be complete without briefly considering an historical precedent. Specifically, during the period between 1945, before the Cold War arrived in Southeast Asia, Thailand played a leading role in the Southeast Asian region.

Besides Phin's military support of the Viet Minh, the Thai prime minister in 1946, Pridi Phanomyong, provided special trains, boats, and was even ready to lease airplanes to the DRV [Democratic Republic of Vietnam] to transport weapons from Thailand to Indochina to fight the French. Like the Vietnamese, the Thais were loath to see the French return to Indochina, knowing that Paris would demand return of the rice-rich Cambodian territories which Bangkok had regained during WWII with the help of the Japanese.

Bangkok backed up its military aid with considerable diplomatic support of Ho Chi Minh's newly independent DRV. In 1946, the Thai Government permitted the DRV to establish a diplomatic office in Bangkok, even though the world community, including Moscow, refused to recognise the DRV. This recognition—though unofficial—was important to the Vietnamese providing them with easy access to legations and diplomats from other Southeast Asian nations.

But the most interesting product of Thai-Vietnamese relations during this period was the creation of Southeast Asia's first regional organisation. As the French and Dutch increased their military presence in Indochina and Indonesia in 1946 and 1947, Thai and Vietnamese leaders, in particular, countered by discussing the need to form a Southeast Asian union. On September 8, 1947, Southeast Asian representatives formed the Southeast Asia League (SEAL). The member nations were: Vietnam, Cambodia (Free Khmer), Laos (Free Lao), Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Based in Bangkok, the first president of SEAL was a Thai and the vice president was a Vietnamese.

Among its goals was the need to promote understanding among Southeast Asian people; to increase study, research and the exchange of information among Southeast Asians; to protect human rights; to foster cultural, social, economic, and scientific interests relating to Southeast Asia; and to create a Southeast Asian union. While SEAL was an unofficial organisation at the outset, its primary goal was to establish an official regional body to be called the South East Asia Federation.

Concerning this last point, Southeast Asian leaders clearly envisioned the possibility of creating an economic bloc in 1947. The opening sentence of SEAL's manifesto took note of the fact that "Southeast Asia is one of the richest areas of natural resources in the world," noting the "economic interdependence" of the region. Burma's independence leader, U Aung San, said that the League would promote "economic solidarity," while THE MALAYA TRIBUNE agreed, writing that an "economically independent" Southeast Asian bloc could "stave off any threat, political or economic, that might arise in the future." During SEAL's inaugural meeting

special emphasis was placed upon the need to increase the economic growth and unity of Southeast Asia.

What the League could have accomplished, however, will never be known. In November 1947, a coup in Bangkok ousted Pridi from power along with the League. Subsequent events saw Southeast Asia's regional lines redrawn by the Cold War. With the return to power of the former WWII dictator, Phibun Songkhram, Thailand began a closer relationship with the U.S. in the war against communism in Southeast Asia.

By 1954, SEAL was substituted with a Cold War replacement, SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization]. Nevertheless, SEAL was an important creation, marking the first time Southeast Asian nations had joined "in an effort toward a regional development of common interests." It was later followed by such similar ideas as the Mekong Project.

Certainly the historical contexts differ between SEAL and Chatchai's suggestion of an ASEAN-Indochina link up. Between 1945 and 1947, Bangkok developed a regionally oriented foreign policy. With the Cold War still absent from Southeast Asia during this period, Thai policy supported Southeast Asian independence movements and opposed the return of European colonialism.

Today, however, Chatchai's interest in linking Indochina to ASEAN appears to be rooted more in Thailand's increasing economic clout (the move towards NIC-hood), worldwide economic regionalisation, and an ever more acute need for the natural resources it has destroyed in its own country.

But despite these differences, it is worth noting that Chatchai's suggestion that Indochina be incorporated into ASEAN came as the Cold War began its rapid decline at the outset of this year and the hopes of a settlement to the Cambodian problem were increasingly optimistic. In his statement raising the matter of Indochina's admission to ASEAN earlier this year, Chatchai repeated what he had told ranking Indochinese delegates at a trade conference in April 1989. "Thailand must strive to help build a new, more constructive structure of relationship between the two Southeast Asias (capitalist and communist)."

Following the conclusion of a mutually acceptable solution to the Cambodian problem, Southeast Asian security arrangements will undoubtedly change. In particular, regional lines drawn by the Cold War will be rewritten. Changes in the Soviet Union, especially the shrinking Soviet military presence in Vietnam and the Pacific as a whole, will have a conciliatory effect on Indochinese-ASEAN relations.

With the war of ideologies over, economic competition on a worldwide level will increasingly take its place, a development which will lead the Indochinese states and ASEAN nations towards closer economic relations. Thus, by calling for Indochina's admission to ASEAN, Chatchai is returning to a direction not unlike that which existed between 1945-1947, before the Cold War arrived and left its mark on Southeast Asian security relationships for the last four decadees.

However, it must also be admitted the ASEAN's future unity could weaken following a solution to the Cambodian problem. Heretofore held together by its common opposition to Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, links within ASEAN in a post-Cambodia scenario may loosen as latent differences, especially economic ones, come to the surface. Secondly, an ASEAN-Indochina link up could see Thailand and Vietnam competing for influence in Cambodia and Laos. With the emphasis shifting to economics, the Thais will surely have the upper hand and Hanoi will probably find its solidarity with Laos and Cambodia steadily chipped away.

But it is also worth considering that the end of the Cold War will bring new challenges for Southeast Asia. As has been noted, the trend towards regional trading blocs in the world and the possible unification of Europe may provide both ASEAN and Indochina with common ground for increased regional cooperation.

Resolving the Cambodian conflict is the last hurdle to ending 45 years of violence in Indochina and beginning a new, peaceful chapter in Southeast Asian relations. The recent U.S. distancing from the Khmer Rouge and the decision to talk with Vietnam and the PRK has given new momentum to negotiations aimed at settling the Cambodian problem. Unlike some of his ASEAN counterparts, Chatchai welcomed this turn-around in U.S. policy, saying it would accelerate the peace process. This should not come as a surprise.

To the Chunhawan family, Indochina will remain an important part of a post-Cambodian era in Southeast Asia. Both father and son fought in the 1940 Indochina war against the French, but only now does Chatchai have his chance to reassert Thai influence in Indochina. With the Cold War a thing of the past, Chatchai should dust off SEAL by pressing for Indochina's inclusion in ASEAN in the 1990's.

While Phin Chunhawan sent arms to the "Indochinese battlefield" to promote Thai interests, his son will look towards the "Indochina marketplace." This process has already began. Chachai said in January 1990 there is a need to find "new institutional means to manage ties between Hanoi and the rest of Southeast Asia." Judging from his suggestion of a possible Indochina-ASEAN link-up, it seems Chatchai is not unwilling to go back to the future to find "new means" for the rapidly changing world of the 1990's.

Chatchai Explains Chaloem's Remaining in Cabinet

BK2311151590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has explained why Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung is retained in the Cabinet. Gen. Chatchai granted an interview

to reporters at Government House this afternoon during which he said that all coalition parties agreed at the meeting that it is imperative to keep Minister Chaloem in the Cabinet. Otherwise the people would think that the government bowed to the pressure from the military.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai in progress] The seven parties in the coalition had a meeting. And it was agreed among the six parties that we could not sack Chaloem as that would make the people think that the government acted under pressure from the military. Well, that's the reason. There have been comments and interviews given to newspapers and television stations. So what should the government do? What should the Cabinet do? Should Chaloem be removed, it would not be any good for the military, and it would not be any good for the government. It is not good for the military as well as the government because the move would be interpreted as the military pressing the government to remove Chaloem. In that event, nobody would give credence to the cabinet since the Cabinet had to act under order from others. Well, it must not be like that. The sacking of Chaloem would negatively affect the military as well as the government. Well, I had been trying to solve the problem. Chaloem told me that his party decided that he must stay on. Well, in that case, I had to move him from the previous office and make him deputy education minister. That's all. That would keep him away from giving interviews to the press or appearing on television. That is the reason.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the military satisfied with the reason given by the prime minister?

[Chatchai] Why should they not be satisfied? Well, they must try to understand it. I have said that I have never interfered in military affairs. I am the defense minister, do not forget. Yet, I have never interfered in the affairs of the military—in any reshuffle, transfer, or appointment, I have never made a single change.

[Question indistinct]

[Chatchai] Well I have changed my stand because in the beginning Chaloem said that he would go. So I told the press before I left on a trip abroad that Chaloem would not join the new cabinet. But unfortunately, Chaloem did not resign. So what can we do? Well, he has to be there. Anyway, I decided to move him elsewhere. [end recording]

The prime minister added that he had cleared with the military on the matter. He said he already had a telephone conversation with Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun and asked for a meeting with the latter to discuss it.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai in progress] No, nobody ever pressured me.

[Question indistinct]

[Chatchai] Yes, we are going to see each other. Last night I made a phone call to Suchinda asking him to see me in order to discuss it, otherwise people would be mistaken. No...

[Unidentified reporter] There was a rumor this morning that you had sacked Big George [Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong].

[Chatchai] Why should I sack him? I have never interfered with the Armed Forces. When they presented to me the military reshuffle list of 1 October, I never interfered. [end recording]

Military Leaders Boycott Chatchai-Led Meeting

BK2411014490 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[Text] Armed forces leaders boycotted a Defence Council meeting to be chaired by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday, one day after he upset the military by deciding to keep controversial minister Chaloem Yubamrung in the Cabinet.

Chatchai had to abruptly cancel the meeting after most senior military officers failed to show up for the session at the Defence Ministry.

The prime minister had his aides waiting at the ministry until 10 am when the meeting had been scheduled to start. From his Ratchakhru residence, he ordered the cancellation after being informed that only few "junior" officers had come.

Chatchai, on his capacity as defence minister, chairs the council's meeting held every two or three months. The council's members include about 20 senior armed forces leaders.

Sources linked the conspicuous absence to military leaders' dissatisfaction with a limited Cabinet reshuffle announced on Thursday.

The military had pushed for Chaloem's removal from the Cabinet and won the prime minister's promise that the minister would be excluded from the government in the reshuffle. But the reshuffle had Chaloem transferred from the PM's [Prime Minister's] Office to the Education Ministry to assume a deputy minister post.

Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, whose conflict with Chaloem led to military-government tension, was in Chon Buri yesterday for a naval inspection. He was accompanied by Navy Commander-in-Chief Praphat Kritsanachan.

Air Force Commander-in-Chief Kaset Kotchannanin left for Europe on Wednesday.

The sources [said] the absence was considered a silent protest against Chatchai's decision to keep Chaloem in the Cabinet. They noted that the meeting's schedule and its agenda have been fixed earlier this week and the abrupt cancellation was unusual.

Stronger indications that the military top brass were staging a silent protest came in the afternoon when Army Comander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda appeared at the army stadium on Wiphaadi Rangsit Highway to preside over the parade of territorial defence students, a less important function compared with the Defence Council's meeting during which defence policies were to be discussed. Other top army leaders were also present at the Army Stadium.

An army radio programme, meanwhile, broadcast a commentary recounting the history of former Thai capital Ayutthaya, which was conquered by the Burmese because of divisive and weak leadership.

"Ayutthaya fell because administrators were indecisive and absued their power, bringing doom to the city," said the commentary in the "For The Thai Nation" programme.

An Opposition MP yesterday described the controversial Cabinet reshuffle as a signal that Prime Minister Chatchai was planning to dissolve the house of Representatives.

Solidarity MP Dusit Sophitcha also said Chatchai dared not remove Chaloem from the Cabinet because he was afraid that the minister might "expose his weak points" if he returned to the Opposition bloc. Chaloem was an outspoken opposition leader before he joined the Cabinet after the 1988 general election as Chatchai's "bumper" against the Opposition.

"There may be something in the prime minister's mind," Dusit said. "He may have weak points which he wants to keep it a secret but Chaloem knows them well."

History of Political 'Squabbles' Reviewed

BK2211044790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 90 p A14

[From the "Political Desk"]

[Text] The prime minister is about to climb another political greasy pole with a new Cabinet, according to early indications yesterday, and the formation of which can only materialize through tough bargaining and a trade-off among the parties expecting to join the Chatchai III coalition.

While an option for him to take—Cabinet reshuffle, resignation, or dissolution of the House of Representatives—was not decided, it was believed that Chatchai wanted to pick the easiest alternative, that is to form a new Cabinet... and with a blessing from the military.

If that is the direction he eventually takes, it is unlikely that there would be a drastic change as long as Chat Thai Party remains at the core of the coalition. Chatchai however will have to face considerable difficulties resulting from the contention among senior party members who would want to grab important portfolios.

Those already having important and "rewarding" positions will insist that no changes be made, while those who had been eyeing certain positions in the Cabinet for more than two years will argue that they should be given their due turn. Chatchai will not only be plagued by intra-party power struggles but also the need to satisfy other parties which inevitably would set conditions in return for their support to ensure the survival of his premierships.

This could still work in Chatchai's favour and his grip on the premiership could be strengthened. He knows that there are some unfinished business for the ministers from other political parties. The Social Action Party for instance has gargantuan projects yet to be concluded and the stakes involved can become powerful bargaining chips for him.

But in retrospect, his choice of continued premiership through the formation of another coalition administration, instead of a dissolution of the House of Representatives, simply underscores the perception that the Chatchai III Cabinet resembles old wine in a new bottle. In such a case, there are limited choices among the MPs with integrity and efficiency who can win public confidence and trust.

Let's say Chatchai can somehow come up with a new Cabinet which may exclude Chaleom Yubamrung, the controversial leader of the Muan Chon Party. This however does not mean that the squabbles in the administration will end automatically.

Chatchai will still have to stage a balancing act tottering on the political tightrope because, to a certain extent, the relationship between the Chat Thai-led administration and the military had gone sour.

In a period slightly more than two years of his premiership, there were hardly moments devoid of scandals and conflicts of interests. The-Chatchai II administration saw the firing of two Cabinet members due to suspected graft.

There were other scandal-tainted events. Two senior ministers, former finance minister Pramuan Saphawasu and Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat were unceremoniously kicked upstairs to become Chatchai's deputies so that the premier could put on a new coat of paint on the dented image of the government.

The public witnessed Chatchai's attempt to bring his premiership to complete its four-year term of office by tortuous manoeuvring. They saw Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut being persuaded to retire as the Army Chief to become a deputy premier and defence minister. Chawalit managed to last 74 days when Chaloem's scathing remark spurred the retired general to quit.

That marked the beginning of a serious conflict between the administration and the top brass who used to be Chawalit's subordinates. Chaloem's all-out verbal attack

directed at Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and his spokesman set the stage for the military to flex its muscles with a demand that Chaloem must be dismissed, or else...

Political infighting will continue over conflicts of interest, no matter how the composition of the new coalition will be. With so much at stake economically and politically, the public has seen blatant and no-holds barred quarrels like what happened during the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

As befitting the pattern of Chatchai's administration during the past two years, most of the topics picked for squabbles were potentially troublesome, if not outright controversial. Such events were equally disturbing to the public which had doubts on whether the scandal-plagued coalition could actually sit down and behave like mature government leaders to manage the affairs of state competently and honestly.

The sense of accountability to the public still has to be inculcated in the minds of many politicians and certain Cabinet members.

This lack of accountability was evident during the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday when a group of ministers was locked in arguments and all indications showed that some of the issues discussed were by nature partisan with personal interests and party stakes being the key. As usual, it was the prime minister who had to intervene when he saw that the sharp verbal exchange could get out of control and further sour the coalition's make-believe unity.

The latest round of heated debates were mainly centred around Premier Chatchai's first Cabinet meeting since returning from Japan and China last Saturday. This time the protagonists were Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-On, Communications Minister Montri Phongphanit, and PM's [prime minister's] office ministers Chaloem Yubamrung and Chaisiri Ruangkanchanaset. Each had support from other Cabinet members who either aired their opinions based on principle, or simply for the sake of partisan backing.

For starters, many Cabinet members were genuinely surprised by the audacity of Chaloem when he proposed for the Cabinet's approval the return to the civil service of Dr Niyom Purakham as an adviser to the Prime Minister's Office. It was not a surprise, however, that the proposal faced immediate opposition.

The motive was so crystal clear Chaloem must have felt that he was partly responsible for the future career of Dr Niyom who left his job as head of the National Statistical Office to run as a Muan Chon candidate in the Bangkok gubernatorial election in January. The minister knows that his days in the Cabinet are numbered, particularly if the prime minister eventually decides that a reshuffle is inevitable. In the process, Chatchai will have to exclude him from the new line-up.

So Chaloem must have found it dutiful that he should, by some means, help his equally outspoken friend by finding a new job for him.

What is the most likely place to be, if not the Prime Minister's Office where he still works? Besides, Chaloem believed that he could still bank on hearty support from the premier. In the end, his effort proved too embarrassing to Chatchai who, with total ignorance about possible risks of more controversy, approved what Chaloem had proposed for Cabinet's consideration.

This is understandable. The prime minister's decision to endorse the appointment must have based on his desire to return favour to Chaloem, who has loyally served him as a political henchman during the past two years. Therefore, he signed the appointment on October 30, to become effective as of November 1.

But it was not a smooth sailing at all.

Chaisiri immediately protested, showing a valid argument that the proposal was highly irregular and that Niyom was once slated for investigation by the Counter Corruption Commission while still secretary general of the NSO, an agency under the PM's Office.

Chaisiri's opposition was predictabie. Niyom quit the post in November last year, following a conflict with Chaisiri over a computer procurement deal. Similar to other uproar in the coalition, the extent of the controversy and personal interest involved were beyond a reasonable attempt for the two to strike a compromise.

Niyom had been by that time a high-profile senior official who, through his office, periodically came out with highly debatable results of surveys on politics and other subjects. But the public thought that he did it based on professional conviction. The belief was significantly dissipated when he ran for the Bangkok governorship under Chaloem's party. His sense and judgement became suspect.

It was a sweet moment for Chaisiri who pointed at another peculiar aspect of the Chaloem's proposal to reinstate Niyom. The reapppointment was backdated to Oct 30, which meant that Niyom would not be subject to a pending move for investigation by the Counter Corruption Commission for possible wrongdoing in a printing contract, because the statutory limit on this particular case lasted only 15 days.

Chaisiri, who is an MP under Social Action Party from Ubon Ratchathani, argued that regulations state that any official with a rank of C-10 or higher who seek to return to civil service have to be cleared as a matter of course by all their former units. When the argument heated up with other ministers backing Chaisiri, the issue was withdrawn from the Cabinet meeting.

Chaisiri was satisfied in his ability to indirectly settle the score with Niyom. Chaloem was both disappointed and smarting, of course.

The two other verbal clashes involved Commerce Minister Amaret on one side and Montri with the support of other SAP [Social Action Party] ministers. Amaret, a former senior executive vice president of Siam Cement Group and nonpartisan minister who was persuaded to join the Cabinet under the SAP quota, proposed that the government allow imports of electronic circuit boards, including some of those that could be used in making electronic horse-racing machines.

The proposal must have startled, if not shocked other Cabinet members. The product, for all the SAP ministers, still leaves a big sear for the party. Amaret's argument was that a sweeping ban imposed since Aug 21 could bear a serious impact on the domestic electronics and computer industry.

The ban was implemented resulting from a scandal early this year when the then Deputy Commerce Minister Phinya Chuaiplot approved shipments of some electronic circuit boards that were eventually used to make horse racing machines for illegal gambling. The ensuing embarrassment compelled Chatchai to dismiss Phinya and reshuffle his Cabinet.

Amaret, with the background of an honest business executive, floated two options for the Cabinet to consider. The first was to continue a total ban on imports of the product, or permission on a case-by-case basis. His intention was that the electronic and computer industry should not be indiscriminately victimized by the comprehensive ban.

But logic was quite obviously not something the SAP ministers were prepared to base their argument on. Montri, his deputy Prayut Siriphanit, Deputy Foreign Minister Amnuai Yossuck and Chaisiri immediately opposed the proposal. Amaret tried to explain that he had already obtained the consent of the Interior Ministry and the Police Department would have no objection if the Commerce Ministry could ensure tight control on how the circuit boards would be used.

Chatchai intervened again amidst indications that the heated debate would escalate further. He suggested that Armaret and Montri should settle their differences before the issue was brought back to the Cabinet for consideration. Amaret told reporters yesterday that he still firmly believes that the negative aspect—that some of the imported electronic circuit boards could be used for gambling machines—was negligible when compared to the serious impact being felt by the whole legitimate electronic industry.

The SAP ministers, however, would have found themselves in an awkward position had the Cabinet approved Amaret's proposal. The commerce minister, in their view, must not be entitled to any credit when the same issue had just devastated the political standing of their colleague, Pinya.

Joint partisan stand among the SAP ministers was evident soon after. The next debate was a turn for Amaret to demonstrate that his argument and opposition on whatever issues were entirely based on professional principle. The issue involved Montri who sought Cabinet approval to exempt 33 jetliners that Thai Airways International had already ordered, from a 0.5 percent import surcharge.

Amaret's objection was that all government agencies should not be given any exception. If the ministry was successful in obtaining the waiver, it would establish a bad precedent for other state enterprises who will find it too easy to cut import cost, but at the expense of the national coffers.

Amaret found strong support from Deputy Prime Minister Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, Finance Minsiter Wiraphong Ramangkun, and Science, Technology and Energy Minister Prachuap Chaisan. Montri was dismayed by the resistance. But his line of argument could not impress other Cabinet members.

All the same, Montri was supported by his deputy, Prayut, and Deputy Education Minister Mai Sirinawakun. Again, Chatchai intervened to end the argument and asked Amaret and Montri to sort things out on the two contentious issues before it is presented to the Cabinet.

A third Chatchai Cabinet will likely see more of the same squabbles if the same old parties and politicians stay in power.

Phalang Tham Candidate Wins Bangkok Election

BK2511133090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Statement by Major General Chamlong Simuang, Bangkok Metropolis Administration governor, in Bangkok on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] The Bangkok Metropolis Administration [BMA] wishes to announce the following results of the election for the vacant member of parliament post in Bangkok Constituency 2:

Suthep Atthakon of Phalang Tham Party has been elected member of parliament for Bangkok Constituency 2. He received 26,792 votes. Kasem Sirisamphan of Social Action Party was next, receiving 17,634 votes. Kannala Khanthaphrap of Prachakon Thai Party received 12,661 votes.

Voter turnout was 26.83 percent, invalid ballots totaled 3.10 percent. The vote count has been completed, the public is hereby informed.

Loan Ceiling Rate Raised to 19 Percent

BK2411014690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 pp A1, A2

[By Usani Wongsawat and Sam-Ang Wuthisaksathit]

[Text] The Bank of Thailand yesterday resorted to a drastic measure to cool down the overheating economy and combat inflationary pressure by raising the loan ceiling by 2.50 percentage points to 19 per cent per annum, signalling a painful adjustment ahead for the economy.

But instruction has been given to the commercial banks that gradual upward adjustment, a maximum 0.50 percentage points for each round, of the interest rates should be made to allow the borrowers enough time to make self-adjustments during these hard times.

The savings account rate will also move up from 9 per cent to 12 per cent per annum to encourage savings in the financial system at a time when the economy is facing a credit crunch. Yet Worawi Wangli managing director of the Nakonthon Bank, said the commercial banks will be adjusting the savings rate up by only one percentage point because 30 per cent of the deposit system accounts for savings accounts and to make an abrupt 3-percentage-point adjustment will bring huge pressure on the banks' cost of funds.

Finance companies and credit financiers will be allowed to bring up their lending rate ceiling from 19.50 per cent to 21 per cent, against the deposit rate from 16 per cent to 18 per cent.

The sudden announcement yesterday caught most observers by surprise, although the prevailing belief was such that the upward pressure of the interest rates in the short term would be inevitable. A 2.50-percentage-point increase in the lending ceiling means that the overheating economy is more serious than many have thought, or dare not think.

"I will take all the responsibility for the consequences. When it is a matter of economic reason, we will have to do it, and do it with courage. And I will also be ready to confront the political ramifications," said Dr Wiraphong Ramangkun, the finance minister.

Politically, it was indeed a bold decision on the part of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand to tighten the grip on monetary policy by pushing up the interest rates, particularly at a time when the Chatchai administration is coming under fire from a series of political and economic maladies.

Wiraphong and Wichit Suphinit, the central bank governor, yesterday went ahead to announce the new interest rate ceiling without seeking prior consultations with the prime minister. At about 5 pm yesterday, Dr Surakiat Sathianthai, a key aide to the prime minister, rushed to meet Wiraphong to get a briefing on the crucial policy decision, which could affect the stability of the Chatchai administration.

"My meeting with the finance minister is to find out the basic information leading to this monetary policy decison. It was a decision of the finance minister, who has the power to do so. Since he is an academic, he knows what he should be doing," Surakiat said after a one-hour meeting with the minister.

The new interest rate structure also changes the way in which small-time borrowers of housing loans are categorized. Up until yesterday the commercial banks were ordered by the central bank not to charge these customers more than 15 per cent a year for a loan package amounting to Bt500,000 and for a house priced not more than Bt650,000. Starting Monday the commercial banks will be treating this group of customers like their prime customers, who should be charged with a minimum lending rate (MLR) for a loan package amounting [to] Bt750,000 and a house valued at Bt1 million.

The monetary authorities asserted that a tighter grip on the monetary policy is aimed at narrowing the gap between demand for money and savings in the system, one of the major reasons for the present credit crunch, apart from combatting inflation widely believed to shoot up to 9.5 or 10 per cent next year.

The central bank governor said the decision to raise the interest rates came after a close review of the money market between September and October, during which time the investment/savings gap was found to be widening. He added that in October alone credit in the system grew by Bt30 billion against savings growth's Bt15 billion, while in September the figures were Bt37 billion against Bt26 billion respectively.

In the first 10 months of this year, credit growth zoomed to 36.4 per cent compared to 29 per cent for deposit growth, explaining why the ceremony has been overheating and a brake should be applied, otherwise it might break down somewhere along the line.

Another measure to boost the liquidity in the system is the central bank's easing of the commercial banks' foreign debts from a maximum 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the capital reserves, as a result of which the commercial banks will have a breathing space to manouevre their funds by another Bt20 billion.

Some critics did not agree with this drastic monetary measure. Associate Professor Kim Chaisaensuk of Ramkhamhaeng University's Department of Economics, said the higher interest rates will cause a severe impact on the economy, with the stock market and the real estate market immediately receiving the severe blow.

He added that raising the lending rate ceiling is meant to "please" the commercial banks, which should be resorting to overseas funds to boost their liquidity at the present time. "The economy has already been hard hit by the Middle East crisis and the vulnerable political situation, and things will become worse with the interest rate adjustment, particularly from the psychological point of view," Kim said.

He said over the past two or three months commercial banks have been benefiting from the sharp economic growth and strong liquidity base, and when the hard times come they should share the responsibility instead of pushing the burden to the public, particularly the middle-income earners.

Still, Wiraphong said extending the lending rate ceiling to 19 per cent represents a principle of the monetary policy because in practice the central bank still has the power to control the rise in interest rate by 0.50 percentage point each by looking at the surrounding seasonal circumstances and the costs of funds of the commercial banks.

Vietnam

Hanoi Expected To Attempt Joining ASEAN

BK2411063590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p A8

[Report by Kawi Chongkitthawon from Hanoi: "Vietnam's Backdoor to ASEAN"]

[Text] President Suharto's trip to Hanoi early this week was a symbolic visit for it officially put an end to the cold war era in the region, which had divided Indochina and non-communist Southeast Asian countries for almost three decades.

The Vietnamese policy makers treated Suharto's visit—ASEAN's first head of state here—as a stepping stone to gain a wider acceptance among the ASEAN countries that they believe in due time would lead to Vietnam becoming a member of ASEAN.

Hanoi-based diplomats agreed that there has emerged a new emphasis on Vietnam's foreign policy that places priority toward the prosperous ASEAN region, a shift from previous emphasis.

"That was a change of heart, given the ambiguity of Vietnam's past policy toward ASEAN," said an ASEAN diplomat referring to Vietnam's hostile approach towards ASEAN throughout the Cambodian war.

During talks with its Indonesian counterparts, Vietnam reiterated its intention to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia drawn up in Bali in 1976 with the hope that it will be allowed to join ASEAN in due course.

In the press conference at the end of Suharto's visit on Wednesday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he welcomed Vietnam's intention to become a signatory of the 1976 treaty. It outlines a framework for peaceful coexistence among countries in the region and their assurance to settle once and for all, all regional conflicts by peaceful means.

For the first time, Hanoi has made it crystal clear that it would rather join the existing regional framework—ASEAN—than opt for the formation of a new regional grouping. In the past few years, Vietnam had kept this alternative in mind as the way to respond to the new changing situation in Southeast Asia. The call for a new and larger organization for the region was first proposed by Laos in 1986. It has yet to receive support from the ASEAN countries. During his visit to Bangkok recently, Lao Vice Foreign Minister Souban Saritthilat said that Laos also wants to sign the treaty.

Vietnam's plan to join ASEAN will get another boost when Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi holds a summit meeting with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in Chiang Mai at the end of January. The summit will further consolidate Vietnam's drive to become part of the regional community. A few diplomats here view the Thai-Vietnam summit as the stepping stone to Vietnam's foray into ASEAN.

Vietnam is well aware of ASEAN's differences in opinion on whether to take the Indochinese countries into the ASEAN fold. But the Vietnamese leaders see the support of Indonesia and Thailand as [a] good start.

For the time being, as the peace process to end the Cambodian conflict has not yet reached its final stage, Vietnam can only hope for some moral support from their Indonesian friends. In the press conference, although Alatas endorsed Vietnamese Deputy Primne Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's assessment that countries in the region should not be held hostages to the Cambodian war, Alatas also stressed that the comprehensive Cambodian settlement is crucial if there is to be a close cooperation between ASEAN and Vietnam.

That much was clear. However, some Vietnamese officials were somewhat disappointed with Suharto's visit for they expected to get more support from Indonesia—considered the closest ASEAN friend—especially in the field of economic assistance. Instead, both countries signed a general agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Both countries hoped that the agreement would soon lead to the future plan of setting up a joint economic commission.

A Thai diplomat here said that Indonesia-Vietnam economic relations are still in its infancy stage. The new agreement, the first between Vietnam and an ASEAN country, must be backed up by concrete frameworks, which still do not exist in Vietnam. Thailand is currently working with Vietnamese officials to form a joint commission, which will be signed at the Thai-Vietnam summit.

A senior Vietnamese official said that integration with the Southeast Asian economy is Hanoi's top priority in the long run. "Suharto's visit will only bear fruit 15 years from now," the officials said.

He said Vietnam expects financial and technical assistance from the West to uplift its backward economy. Despite the admiration of ASEAN economic dynamism,

the Vietnamese leaders however do not want their country to be the ASEAN's backburner by accepting its second-class technologly.

That explains why the Vietnamese leaders are now more reconciliatory in its effort to woo the West, especially the United States and Europe as well as Japan which have led an international embargo against Vietnam. Economic aid from the European Community, Italy and France in particular, have already had impacts on the Vietnamese economy.

When the all EC countries resume their aid package to Vietnam in the near future, Vietnamese officials are optimistic that the economic growth would be accelerated. The European countries are currently the top investors in Vietnam.

One liberal economist however disagrees with this assumption. He said that Vietnam could well be the first communist country to join the market-oriented economic organization. "Make no mistake, Vietnam could be the first country to join ASEAN. It will be the key to Vietnam's economic future," he said.

He said Vietnam has learnt from the lessons of the Eastern European countries which have expressed their intention to join the Western economic groupings after the collapse of their socialist economic system including their economic organizations like the ailing COMECON.

If there is anything, Vietnam hopes in the short term that [it] can build up its political leverage against China by getting close to ASEAN. Vietnamese officials agreed almost unanimously that the most significant political outcome of Suharto's visit is a signal that Indonesia has treated Vietnam with an equal footing as China in Jakarta's political manoeuverings with the two Asian communist nations.

Suharto's visit to China and Vietnam in succession could augur well for Indonesia. As the two largest countries in Southeast [ASEAN], close Vietnam-Indonesia ties enable Jakarta to deal with Beijing more confidently. Vietnam sees Indonesia as an ally that shares a common mistrust of China.

During the talks, Vietnam strongly supports Indonesia's initiative on turning the potential conflicts in the resource-rich South China Sea into a zone of peaceful cooperation. While many countries have claimed the rights to the controversial Spratley Islands, only China and Vietnam have used armed force and have engaged in diplomatic wrangling to take control of the island chains.

Analysts also see the possibility of peaceful cooperation in the South China Sea—which is potential hotspot in the region—if China is willing to join in with concerned countries in developing the areas.

As peace in Cambodia is almost at hand, Vietnam has finally realized that it can utilize ASEAN for both its political and economic objectives.

Government Needs Aid To Enforce Refugee Policy

BK2211162790 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 22—Vietnam protests against forcible repatriation of refugees and holds that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should demonstrate more of its non-political humanitarianism in solving the issue of Vietnamese refugees, said Mrs. Dinh Thi Minh Huyen, counsellor of the Vietnamese Permanent Mission at the United Nations.

At a meeting of the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee on Nov. 19 of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, Mrs. Huyen said:

"Since March 1989 more than 6,000 Vietnamese refugees have voluntarily repatriated. The number of illegal departures from the country has dropped by nearly 50 percent compared with 1989. At the same time, Vietnam has accelerated the procedures of issuing permits to those who want to repatriate. However, financial assistance from the international community is necessary for Vietnam to enforce its policy of preventing illegal departures. Aid should also be given to the program of resettlement of the repatriates, and the economic embargo against Vietnam should be lifted."

Nguyen Khanh Receives Swedish Delegation 23 Nov

BK2311130990 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh received in Hanoi recently a delegation of the Swedish Save the Children Fund. Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh hailed the fund's effective support to Vietnamese children, especially in the field of rehabilitation, and expressed Vietnam's desire to further broaden cooperation with the fund.

Canadian Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK2411154290 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—Arthur Perron, Canadian Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, today presented credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho.

Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho had a cordial conversation with the Canadian diplomat.

CPV External Relations Delegation Visits Cuba

BK2211162390 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 22—A delegation of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party

of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee led by deputy head of the commission Trinh Ngoc Thai visited Cuba from November 5-18.

The delegation had working session with officials of the Department of International Relations of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and at the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples. It toured a number of production establishments in Havana and other localities.

The delegation was received by Ms. Melba Hernandez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

Oil Well Discovered by French-British Firm

BK2411161190 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—The Vietnam General Oil and Gas Company (PETROVIETNAM) has announced the discovery of oil at well 17-C-IX at 130 km off Vung Tau beach resort, which lies 100 km southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, by Corporation of European Petroleum [CEP] Company (France) and Enterprise Oil (Britain).

Trial exploitation yielded daily 300 barrels of oil having properties similar to that taken from the Bach Ho general oil deposit since mid-1986.

The joint French-British corporation has been prospecting for oil over an area of 9,000 square kilometres on the Vietnamese southern continental shelf since April 1989 with an investment of 60 million US dollars under an initial programme of five years. The successful drill was made by the ship "Dan Duchess" of Lauritzen offshore company.

OIL-CEP is the first foreign corporation to have found oil on the Vietnamese southern continental shelf, and one of the Western groups to invest independently in oil and gas exploitation there.

Ho Chi Minh City Commemorates Nam Ky Uprising

BK2411143290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Report on the grand meeting in Ho Chi Minh City on 22 November to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nam Ky uprising—portion recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: On the morning of 22 November, the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, people's committee, and Vietnam Fatherland Front committee jointly held a grand meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Nam Ky uprising. Attending the meeting were representatives of the people from all walks of life and various organs, sectors, and mass organizations in the city. Also present were the comrade revolutionary veterans and combatants who took part in the Nam Ky uprising and the leaders of the central Nam Ky interzone party committee.

"On behalf of the party organization and people of the city, Comrade Nguyen Bao Danh, deputy secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, recalled the tradition of indomitable struggle of the southern compatriots in the Nam Ky uprising as well as in other stages of national construction and defense of our people."

Expressing the determination of Ho Chi Minh City to step up activities in all domains to make itself strong and worthy of being the city that has been named after Uncle Ho, Comrade Nguyen Bao Danh said:

[Begin recording] "Half a century has elapsed since the Nam Ky uprising. Many events of great national and international importance have taken place in our country. From the colorful pages of the history of the Nam Ky uprising, all succeeding generations of our people have discovered and will certainly discover the heroic spirit of our nation in this southern part of the country and many highly valuable experiences in seizing and holding power. The lesson acquired from the Nam Ky uprising 50 years ago has now become a present-day lesson for each of us.

"As Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh analyzed profoundly on the occasion of the party's 60th founding anniversary, it is the sense of self-reliance which is the spirit of indomitability itself. The successes of the Vietnamese revolution during the past 60 years have stemmed from the spirit of indomitability of our people under the party's leadership.

"The clear-sightedness and steadfastness of the party have been manifested strikingly at various turning points of history. The Nam Ky uprising has actually entered an illustrious page of our nation's history. The uprising is not merely a recollection of the examples exhibited by those fallen heroes who had sacrificed their lives for the country but, more importantly, it provides valuable lessons for our people at present.

"We are concentrating efforts on accelerating all the political tasks of our party organization and city, especially the fulfillment of the state plan for 1990, while making preparations in all aspects to pave the way for 1991 to become the year in which we will change the socioeconomic situation of the city along with the common situation of the entire country.

"The party organization and people of the city will also devote appropriate time and all their intellect to making a study of and contributing views to various draft documents to be presented to the Seventh National Party Congress. Each draft document has its different importance. The draft program will be the banner of the struggle for the success of the cause of socialist construction in our country. It is also the theoretical, ieological, and political foundation and orientation for all activities of the party at present and in the coming decades. By successfully implementing this program, we will certainly be able to develop our country and turn it into a prosperous socialist country.

"Let us have faith in ourselves, resolutely ensure unity and unanimity, and devote ourselves entirely to the path of socialism—the dream and faith of those members of the communist party who, together with their compatriots, successfully inspired the Nam Ky uprising.

"Long live the spirit of the Nam Ky uprising.

"Long live the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam.

"Long live the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

"President Ho Chi Minh lives forever in our cause." [applause] [end recording]

Next, Comrade Duong Quang Dong, former standing member of the central Nam Ky interzone party committee, recalled the developments of the uprising 50 years ago and expressed the hope that the young generation would develop the nation's heroic tradition and follow the steps of their fathers and brothers on the revolutionary path in order make Vietnam a prosperous and powerful country.

Paper Hails Heroism

BK2311115590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Nov 90

[NHAN DAN 23 November editorial: "Revolutionary Heroism of the Nam Ky Uprising"]

[Text] Just like the Nghe Tinh upheaval that was the peak of the first high revolutionary tide, the Nam Ky uprising was the peak of the second high revolutionary tide since the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] came into being and led the revolution in our country.

These two uprisings were the initiatives of the local party organizations and people. The scope of the Nam Ky uprising was broader than that of the Nghe Tinh upheaval. It extended from Saigon to many provinces in the Nam Bo delta. Our people were ready to rise up and topple colonialist domination to win over independence and freedom for the country and to establish the people's revolutionary administration. The banner of the revolution had already appeared in this heroic combat of the southern compatriots.

During the encounter with the aggressors, our compatriots and combatants were fighting very bravely. The fighting in Nam Ky was fierce because the planned uprising had been discovered by the enemy, making the uprising a battle against the enenmy campaign of terrorism ranging from hamlets and villages to the enemy's security service and prison. The sacrifices of our compatriots and combatants were very great. Tens of thousands of them were arrested and thousands of persons heroically laid down their lives for the country. Most of the leaders of the central Nam Ky Interzone Party Committee and the party committees of many provinces were arrested and killed. Comrades Nguyen Van Cu, Ha Huy Tap, Phan Dang Luu, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, and many other leaders were executed by firing squads.

The losses of revolutionary forces during the Nam Ky uprising were huge. Yet, just as in the wake of the Nghe Tinh upheaval, the imperialists could not suppress the resistance spirit of our people. Nor could they put an end to revolutionary breakouts that were taking place thereafter even more violently.

Three months after the Nam Ky uprising, the outstanding leader of the Vietnamese revolution, Nguyen Ai Quoc, definitively returned home to lead and organize the national liberation of our people, which led to a high revolutionary tide. The CPV Central Committee's eighth plenum in 1941 asserted that the time for national liberation would come when World War II waged by international fascism was defeated. It decided to prepare forces for the general uprising countrywide.

The lessons learned from the two high revolutionary tides and the setbacks of the two limited uprisings contributed a great deal to the education of cadres and the revolutionary masses. The banner of the Nam Ky uprising became the combat banner of our entire nation. Five years had not completely elapsed following the setback of the Nam Ky uprising, when Saigon and Nam Bo together with the entire country staged a general uprising to overthrow the reactionary domination by militarism and led the August Revolution to the glorious victory of establishing the people's administration countrywide and opening the era of national independence and freedom.

The Nam Ky uprising took place on the land where Truong Dinh, Nguyen Trung Tru, and Thu Khoa Huan had once staged upheavals. Also on this very piece of heroic land two resistance struggles against France and the United States, the general upheavals early in the 1960's, the general offensive and upheaval in the spring of 1975, and even the struggle to defend the country and fulfill the international obligations had taken place.

Patriotism and revolutionary heroism is the precious spiritual legacy and the great motivating force of the Vietnamese nation. Nowadays, it becomes the motivating force for our people to build prosperity for the country along the socialist line, to transform the ideal and dream of various Vietnamese generations who have fought and endured sacrifices for hundred years or more into a vivid reality in our country, and to build a beautiful new life in order to merit the noble sacrifices and brilliant ethics of previous generations.

Paper Analyzes U.S. Strategy Adjustments

BK2411094190 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Nov 90 p 4

[Article by Le Ba Thuyen: "Washington's Half-Hearted Adjustment"]

[Text] As announced by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, the United States is implementing a plan under which U.S. military strength overseas will be reduced by hundreds of thousands of troops, and 151 U.S. military

bases in 10 Western countries will be closed down or will have their areas of operations reduced. This is the largest U.S. troop reduction abroad since the end of World War II. What is the significance of this military cutback?

Removing Pieces of Superfluous Flesh

According to a recent issue of the "16 NATO Countries" magazine, the United States possesses the largest number of military facilities overseas with nearly 400 bases worldwide, including 225 in the Federal Republic of Germany. As many as 500,000 U.S. troops are stationed in various countries, thus accounting for 24 percent of the 2.13 million-strong U.S. Armed Forces. Of this number, 341,000 troops are stationed in Europe and 135,000 others form a forward deployment force in the Asia-Pacific region. The deployment of U.S. military strength overseas is aimed mainly at backing three military alliances that Washington has attached special importance to, namely the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Europe, the U.S.-Japan military pact, and the U.S.-South Korea military alliance in Northeast Asia.

Under this 1991-1994 three-year troop reduction plan, the Pentagon will close down 95 military bases in the FRG (including three airbases), 11 military bases in Spain, and three other military facilities in Great Britain, Italy, and Greece. In the Asia-Pacific region, nine military bases in South Korea and three military facilities in Australia will be closed down. Washington has planned to reduce the U.S. numerical strength in Europe to approximately 90,000 troops. The military cutback in the Asia-Pacific region will be less substantial. Three army divisions will be dissolved whereas three other divisions will be reorganized into reservist forces.

As accurately noted by Western public opinion, most of those U.S. military bases to be closed down or to have their areas of operations reduced are but small-scale support facilities. The troop reduction plan is but an attempt to "remove pieces of superflous flesh" and not a major strategy adjustment.

Strong Pressures

The major developments worldwide and in the United States over the past years have created growing pressures forcing the White House and the Pentagon to review their military strategies.

The United States is now facing three puzzling problems with no proper solution in sight. First, faced with the current worldwide trend of detente and with growing U.S. and world demands for U.S. troop reductions in Europe, how can Washington carry out disarmament and at the same time firmly maintain and consolidate its military strength to materialize its scheme aimed at dominating the world? Second, how can the United States firmly maintain its deterrent force now that it has to effect major cutbacks in military spending to cope with an increasingly serious economic crisis? Third, so far the United States has relied on its economic and military strength to influence and control its Western allies. At present, economically the United States has become relatively weakened compared with Japan and Western European countries, and militarily it has been compelled to effect troop reductions overseas. Given such a situation, how can Washington maintain its influence and control over its Western allies, who are now trying to become more "independent" of the United States?

The new troop reduction plan is not a sufficient answer to the above-mentioned puzzling problems, but only a patched up solution to a number of immediate issues. To maintain its deterrent force, Washington has effected a military strategy adjustment based on the "three-point reduction" and "three-point enhancement" program aimed at reducing the size and improving the quality of U.S. military strength. The "three-point reduction" plan calls for selective cutbacks in numerical strength, military bases, weapons, and military spending, as well as for the preservation of the most important forces and means and against the maintenance of facilities that have become obsolete or less efficient in the new situation. The "three-point enhancement" plan calls for the modernization of strategic weapons and acceleration of the "Strategic Defense Initiatiave" (SDI), for the enhancement of conventional arms in support of the deterrent policy, and for growing pressure on the allies to share the burden by contributing more manpower, material resources, and weapons to implementing the U.S. global strategy. Together with the Bush administration's continued efforts to modernize strategic weapons and implement the SDI program, Washington's feverish attempts to urge Western countries to share the burden with the United States in the current Gulf crisis are clear indications of that plan.

Difficulties and Restrictions

The toughest obstacles in the exercise of U.S. global strategy are the economic and financial difficulties now confronting the United States.

On the one hand, readjustment of military policies cannot save the United States even a fraction of the huge sum of 8,000 billion dollars needed for achieving technical renovations and restoring the competitive power of the U.S. economy by the end of this century. The cut of 200 billion dollars in military spending for the coming year also cannot help much. Meanwhile, the cost of the Persian Gulf conflict is high, amounting to billions of dollars a month. Depite a substantial cut in spending (the U.S. Administration and Congress recently approved a US$500-billion budget deficit reduction package for the coming year), the federal budget deficit instead of going down has continued to rise, and it may swell to 250 billion dollars in Fiscal Year 1991. The U.S. Congressional General Accounting Office (GAO) holds that it is imperative to reduce spending by 1,050 billion dollars during the 1992-97 period. This means that pressure will continue to mount demanding reduction of U.S. defense spending. On the other hand, Washington's persistence

in retaining a global strategy that the United States is no longer strong enough to single-handedly maintain has resulted in an ever-waning economy and this has, in turn, had a negative impact on exercise of the U.S. global strategy.

The fact that Washington relies on greater contributions from allied countries for its global strategy is not without difficulties and restrictions. Differences among the three nerve centers of imperialism have become increasingly acute. There will be a time when wealthy capitalist countries do not want to open their purses to keep spending billions of dollars for the U.S. global strategy.

The half-hearted readjustment that Mr. Cheney announced can in no way help Washington tide over growing difficulties now burdening the United States. All these difficulties, including those in the readjustment of military policies, stem from a great strategy, that is, the excessively great ambition of the United States, and its ever-waning capabilities in a rapidly-changing world.

Paper Marks Lao National Day, Achievements

BK2511085590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], NHAN DAN today carries an article on the restructuring cause of Laos. The article says in part:

The great 1975 victory helped liberate the whole country and resulted in the emergence of the LPDR, thereby marking a historic turning point in the history of the Lao Revolution. Over the past 15 years, the LPDR has made remarkable progress and scored great achievements in the political, security, national defense, and socioeconomic domains thanks to the great efforts and unyielding revolutionary struggle of the Lao nationalities under the correct, creative leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] led by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, and the strong support from frateral and friendly countries in the world.

The LPRP affirmed that the current revolutionary stage is the one of consolidating and perfecting the people's democratic system to create favorable conditions for advancing toward socialism. The most pressing task at present is to shift the natural and semi-natural economic system into the multicomponent commodity-based economy to develop the production force, consistently improve the people's material and cultural life, and gradually enhance the people's happiness and the nation's prosperity.

Stemming from this concept, the LPRP has decided to renovate its economic structure, management mechanism, and foreign policy to achieve the aforesaid goals.

Delegate Speaks at UNGA on Decolonization

BK2211161790 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 22—Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of Vietnam's Permanent Mission at the 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA], said in New York on Nov. 20 that the unscrupulous exploitation of natural resources of the colonial territories by foreign interests and the use of many of those territories for military purposes have obstructed the decolonization process.

The Vietnamese head-delegate said:

"The declaration on decolonization, in legal terms, is a solemn manifesto of independence and freedom for all nations in the world. While celebrating those achievements, the international community must still bear in mind that the process of decolonization is yet to be fulfilled. Eighteen non-self-governing territories subjected to one form of colonial rule or another still remain on the special committee's list."

He called on the administrators in those territories to contribute to the local socio-economic development and dismantle their military bases and installations.

Concerning the situation in South Africa, he called on the international community to maintain sanctions until the system of apartheid is totally abolished. He said Vietnam considers the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories an example of colonialism, and welcomes the United Nations' decision to take this decade as an International Decade for Abolishing Colonialism. He reiterated the Vietnamese people's consistent support for all other peoples struggling for self-determination.

Conference Held To Discuss Party Documents

BK2211050090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The Hanoi municipal party committee on 19-20 November held a conference of key cadres to discuss draft documents of the upcoming Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee attended the conference. He briefed attending cadres on the contents of the draft program for socialist construction for the transition period.

Those attending the conference also heard the text of the draft strategy to stabilize and develop the socioeconomic situation in Vietnam until the year 2000. On this occasion, the Hanoi municipal party committee issued a guideline for implementing the party Central Committee Secretariat's directive on soliciting the people's ideas on the draft program and strategy.

The conference also studied the party Central Committee Office's letter to party organizations compiling ideas from various sectors on party draft documents.

Local Market Prices From 21-23 Nov Reported

BK2611045090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The local market prices from 21 to 23 November 1990 were as follows:

The normal non glutinous rice, 1,400 to 1,450 dong per kg; good quality rice, 1,550 to 1,600 dong per kg in Hanoi, in Quang Nam Da Nang, 1,380 dong per kg, in Ho Chi Minh City, 1,500 dong per kg, in Can Tho, 1,300 to 1,400 dong per kg, and in Ca Mau, 1,600 dong per kg.

Pork on the hoof, 5,800 dong per kg in Hanoi. Prices of sugar, milk, and monosodium glutimate are steady. Prices of grain nuts, legumes, and beans have increased about 100 to 200 dong per kg. Gasoline prices in northern provinces are 2,500 to 2,600 dong per liter, and in southern provinces 2,200 to 2,400 dong per liter.

Building material prices continue to increase due to high building season demand.

Gold 98 percent pure in Hanoi costs 316,000 to 317,000 for 3.7 grams. In Ho Chi Minh City, gold 96 percent pure costs from 306,000 to 307,000 dong for 3.7 grams.

In Hanoi, one U.S. dollar is worth 6,670 dong, and in Ho Chi Minh City one dollar costs 6,685 dong.

Housing Space Problem, Program in Hanoi Noted

BK2511080290 Hanoi VNA in English 0653 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 25—By the end of the 1980s housing space in Hanoi, exclusive of its suburbs, has totalled 4,036,000 sq.m. [square meters] for a population of 966,800, average per capita floor space was 44.17 sq.m., a very modest figure by the standards of other developing countries.

The city has worked out a construction programme for the first half of the next decade in anticipation of a bigger population which will be about 1,050,000 by 1995. If each inhabitant is to occupy 4.80 sq.m. a total 5,040,000 sq.m. will have to be added to the existing area. That means 6-7 thousand flats, each of 30 sq.m. will have to be built each year. Is this programme be feasible? The answer may be in the affirmative. In fact housing construction developed steady in 1988 and 1989, at the rate of 160,000-180,000 sq.m. a year in Hanoi. Of the total investment, 60 per cent came from the people, the rest from public offices, enterprises, and other institutions.

For the success of the programme, clear cut zoning regulations must be combined with a more liberal policy regarding legitimate ownership. Also the municipal authorities will have to make substantital technical investments, to rent land at accessible rates, and to simplify procedures regarding permits.

Vo Nguyen Giap Visits Lang Son Province

BK2211052290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Vietnam Teacher's Day, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Vo Nguyen Giap recently visited to Lang Son province to inspect work at the provincial education office and the Viet Bac General School. In his talk with a group of teachers, General Vo Nguyen Giap expressed his delight at having the chance to visit again the Viet Bac General School, the 43-year-old institution that trained and forged comrade Hoang Van Thu—a noted revolutionary combatant and his very close friend—and many other revolutionaries of the country.

General Vo Nguyen Giap urged the teachers to strive to overcome difficulties, improve teaching and learning, and produce more competent students for the country. He said that teachers of ethnic minority groups in Lang Son should strive to improve their capability and enhance the relationship between schools, families, and society so as to effectively teach and guide our youth and teenagers to behave in a manner worthy of being the heroic Vietnamese people.

General Mai Chi Tho Visits Police Academy

BK2311080190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] On Vietnam Teacher's Day, General Mai Chi Tho, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of interior paid a working visit to the People's Police Academy. The minister congratulated comrade Pham Minh, rector of the academy who has just been awarded the "People's Teacher" title by the Council of State, and commended lecturers of the academy for their past achievements.

Comrade Mai Chi Tho urged lectures, teachers, cadres, workers, and academy personnel to strive to overcome difficulties, develop self-reliance, creatively improve teaching and learning, and organize emulation drives to promote scientific teaching and research.

Australia

Private Envoys 'Disappointed' Over Iraqi Stance

BK2611070490 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Australia at present has two private delegations in Iraq attempting to negotiate the release of a number of Australian hostages still being detained. However, they are reported to be having little success in their missions so far. Radio Australia's Greg Wildsmith:

[Begin Wildsmith recording] The private Australian envoys in Baghdad were summoned to a meeting with the speaker of the Parliament, Sa'di Mahdi Salih. They hoped it would prove to be a forum where a positive answer would be given to the representations they had been making for the past week. But Mr. Salih restricted himself to a restatement of Iraq's position—that it desired to have a direct dialogue with the United States.

The Australians left the meeting disappointed, but there was no direct reference to the position of the Australian hostages. [end recording]

New Zealand

Oil, Gas Reportedly Found in Taranaki

BK2611081190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 26 (AFP)—An onshore New Zealand exploration well was producing "encouraging" gas and oil flows, the EXPLORER said here Monday.

New Zealand Petroleum Exploration Manager Dan Brown said their Ohanga-1 well in Taranaki, north of here, was producing gas at a rate of 790,000 cubic feet (237,000 cubic metres) a day with 90 barrels of liquids.

In a statement he said the liquids were estimated to be 55 per cent oil bearing, adding that the quantity was not enough for a commercial well.

"We have one more zone to test and hopefully the two of them will make it commercial," he said.

Papua New Guinea

Closer Trade, Economic Ties With PRC Approved

BK2411125490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Port Moresby, Nov 24 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea announced here Saturday moves for closer trade and economic relations with China. PNG Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, said in a statement, that his country's National Executive Council had approved a memorandum of understanding between the two governments.

"The memorandum paves the way for more serious trade and will be used by both nations as a mutual acceptable framework under which to conduct our trade," Mr Namaliu said. He said the memorandum will set the tone for closer trade and economic links.

The PNG leader said his government had responded immediately to the Chinese Government's proposal to conclude the memorandum considering China's huge market potential for PNG products.

PNG's Minister for Trade and Industry John Giheno is due to sign the memorandum on behalf of his government when he leads a trade delegation to China next month, said Mr. Namaliu.

"My government is actively pursuing its policy of diversifying its exports and imports and as a result, the Asian markets will be given much attention over the next few years," he said.

Fishing Talks With Japan Said Deadlocked

BK2311062790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Port Moresby, Nov 23 (AFP)—Attempts by Japan and Papua New Guinea to revive a bilateral fishing agreement this week reached deadlock over a failure to agree on the level of catch payments.

Fisheries and Marine Minister Akoka Doi said Thursday that talks between officials were abandoned for the fifth time when Papua New Guinea refused to accept fee proposals by Japan. He said Papua New Guinea wanted a Cost Insurance Freight (CIF) fee of six per cent or above on all catches and would not relent to Japan's offer of four per cent.

"The fundamental points of differences concerning the six per cent catch for Japanese vessels into PNG waters remain unsolved," Mr. Doi said.

"Naturally, I am disappointed at the present stalemate which reflects the tightly locked positions of both sides.

"My officials will be looking at other possibilities in fisheries co-operation with the Japanese industry.

"This outcome means that I must seek cabinet's approval for other options available," he said, without specifying what these options were. But a government official hinted that one option was for Papua New Guinea to negotiate directly with individual fishing companies, some of which were prepared to do so.

A bilateral fishing agreement was terminated in 1987 when the dispute over fees first surfaced. Since then Papua New Guinea has lost 7.5 million kina (4.14 million dollars) in revenue, as four other attempts to renegotiate the accord reached deadlock.

Mr. Doi said Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines were at present paying the six per cent fee and he failed to understand why Japan was "dead against it."

In the regional context, attempts by the (South Pacific) Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) to negotiate a multilateral fisheries agreement similar to that reached with the United States have also failed.

In the last South Pacific forum meeting in Vanuatu in August, member countries expressed disappointment over Japan's attitude and urged that fresh negotiations begin as soon as possible.

The latest foreign country to enter into a fishing agreement with PNG is the Soviet Union. Officials of the two countries this month met to finalise details of how the agreement would be implemented.